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THE DIAGNOSIS OF ANTHRAX.

This week we publish a summary of a very important contribution to the study of anthrax by two Roumanian veterinarians. If the conclusions of these observers prove well founded, they will have the credit of removing what is, in warm countries at least, the most serious practical difficulty in the diagnosis of the disease. Assuming, however, that other observers confirm the work of Ciuca and Stoicescu as far as it goes, it does not follow that a diagnostic procedure which is uniformly successful in a climate like that of Roumania will be found equally reliable here. The authors do not state definitely how long the anthrax bacillus may remain in the capillaries of the skin in the vegetative form, or at what time after death sporulation takes place. On the other hand, we all know that, upon most days of the year in England, an anthrax carcase under natural conditions does not remain long at a temperature at which sporulation is probable or possible. However, the subject must now be under investigation by pathologists in different countries, and we shall hear in due course how far the new method is applicable to the North of Europe. Country practitioners, in particular, will follow the question with great interest, for, even in England, despite our postal facilities and the improved method of staining, introduced by Sir John M'Fadyean, it is by no means uncommon to find diagnosis impossible on account of putrefaction.

Should the method be adopted in this country it will increase the dependence of the clinician upon the laboratory. Its preliminary procedure is simple in the extreme, for the material can be collected and forwarded by the most unskilled hands. But the test itself will always remain a laboratory test, requiring bacteriological apparatus and a skill in bacteriological technique which surpasses that of the average veterinary or medical practitioner. We are constantly becoming more dependent upon laboratories, though all veterinary surgeons do not yet avail themselves of the assistance the laboratory can give, and not a few stock-owners are quite unaware that such assistance is necessary, or even possible. One of the minor indirect prospective benefits of the impending Tuberculosis Order is that the frequent collection of material by veterinary inspectors, under its provisions, will shake the farmer's belief in the invariable possibility of an immediate clinical diagnosis, and teach him something of the part played by laboratories in modern veterinary medicine.

THE HARROGATE MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the National Veterinary Association opens on Wednesday next, and a very interesting set of papers are to be discussed on that and the next day.

There is, too, a most interesting conference to be held on the previous evening at the George Hotel, at which Dr. Bradley will explain his scheme for a closer alliance of all the veterinary societies. If details can be arranged so that the independence of existing societies can be harmonised with a more united combination every member of the profession will be satisfied. We are numerically a small profession, we have yet to fight for our position, and without the closest union we cannot possibly attain success. This conference may be the starting point of a really important step forward.

Then there are the various social functions attached to the meeting, and the excursion provided by the Yorkshire V.M.S. In fact the attractions to Harrogate are strong, and no member of the "National" should fail to attend—and all should bring their better-halves.

LEAD POISONING IN MILCH COWS.

Case I.—Subject. A roan horned cow with third calf.

History. I received a wire to go and see this cow on Friday evening, May 14th. The owner informed me on my arrival that he had left his cows out at night for the first time four days previously, and that on Wednesday evening, May 12th, they noticed that this cow was falling off her milk and food. Thinking it was only a cold, he was not much alarmed, but whilst the cows were being milked on the Friday evening, this cow suddenly began to roar, broke her neck strap and rushed about the place as if she were mad. Consequently he thought it time to get further advice.

Symptoms. The first thing I noticed on entering the box, was that she was much inclined to be aggressive, so I had to rope her horns before I cared to go any further. On examining her I found that her milk was practically gone, that she was refusing all food and that she was purging violently. Her pulse and respiration were slightly accelerated, but her temperature was normal.

Diagnosis. I was rather inclined to put it down to a severe cold, but was puzzled in finding her temperature normal, so was very guarded in my diagnosis, telling the owner it was probably a cold, but it might turn out to be a case of poisoning.

Treatment. I prescribed Pot. brom. and chlorodyne, and ordered her to be kept warm and quiet.

Sat., May 15. Cow much worse. She had been having fits of madness all the early morning, rushing about the place for a few minutes, then falling in a semi-unconscious state only to get up again after a short time and repeat the symptoms. By the time I arrived she was lying on her side in a semi-unconscious state, pawing with all four legs, rolling her eyeballs, grinding her teeth, but without either inclination or ability to get up. I prescribed large doses of Pot. brom. and chlorodyne, but told the owner her case was hopeless.

My client then asked me to look at a second cow which was ill.

Case II. A polled red cow with fourth calf.

History. I was informed that on the evening previous she was first noticed to be falling off her milk and food.

Symptoms.—Except for the fact that she was off her food and milk, at first sight there seemed to be nothing much the matter with her. Her temperature, pulse, and respirations were quite normal, her coat was shiny and her countenance was nicely bright. I soon discovered, however, that she was badly constipated, for although she had been in her box for the last 14 or 15 hours no dung could be found anywhere. I examined her per rectum and gave her a copious enema, but failed to get any fæces.

On questioning the cowman I found that she had been having six to seven pounds of cotton cake daily, so thought she was probably suffering from impaction. Consequently I gave her a full dose of salts and left her till morning.

May 16th.—On my arrival I learnt that both cows (cases I. and II.) were dead. The first one I expected, but the second quite took me by surprise.

Case I. had died an hour after my leaving the previous day, so she was sent away to slaughterer without my being able to examine her.

As to case II. the owner said he looked at her at 11 p.m. that night when she seemed quite alright, but when his man came at 5 a.m. she was dead. It was easily seen that in this cow's final stages she also had been seized with brain trouble, for the straw was also pulled about, the walls was chipped and bespattered with saliva several feet from the ground.

Post-mortem.—The manifold and rumen were greatly inflamed and one could easily slough off the mucous membrane by touching it with one's fingers.

Liver and kidneys were very soft and affected with fatty degeneration.

Heart: This organ showed blood stained patches on its outer surface, whilst interior of left ventricle was greatly inflamed.

Brain seemed softer than normal and was slightly inflamed.

After making this post-mortem it was of course evident that some irritant poison was present. I decided that it was probably lead, so was pleased to find on inspecting the pasture several old paint tins, with some of their contents licked out, which had been thrown over the fence after being utilised three or four months previously in painting a mill on other side of fence.

To make everything sure, I had the viscera analysed with the result that lead was found to be present in large quantities.

Case III.—After making this post-mortem I was asked to see a third cow, *i.e.* a dark roan horned heifer with second calf.

Symptoms.—She was exactly like case II—*i.e.*, had fallen off her milk and food, and was passing no dung.

Treatment: Having something to work on in this case, I prescribed mag. sulp. ʒiv. every four or five hours, as well as ʒii. of pot. iodid. twice daily. We kept her warm and gave her several pints of gruel, with a bottle.

May 17th.—No apparent change. No relief to bowels, and no inclination to eat. I gave her a copious enema every few hours, and continued medicine as above.

May 18th.—Cow worse. Previous symptoms the same, except for the addition of brain trouble—*i.e.*, rolling her eyes, pressing head against wall, champing her jaws, salivating and roaring at intervals. Treatment the same, except for addition of doses of pot. brom.

May 19th, 9 a.m.—Cow still alive, but worse in every respect. She was much weaker, inclined to be aggressive, roaring almost continually, with head pressed in corner. She died about 1 p.m., so went and made a post-mortem, as follows:—

Manifold, healthy.

Fourth stomach and rumen much inflamed in parts.

Liver and kidneys fatty, although not as bad as in case II.

Heart: Interior of left ventricle was much inflamed.

Remarks.—I must apologise for describing the above cases at such length; but as this, my first experience in lead poisoning, caused me, a young practitioner, much trouble in diagnosis, I hope it may be of interest to other members of the profession.

When reading my text-books, on the subject, I found a lot of information concerning chronic cases, with the blue line on gum, and paralysis, and wasting of extensor muscles; but I could find, practically, nothing of much help to me, except that Finlay Dun says it is sometimes mistaken for impaction of third stomach—a mistake which I fall into in case II.

I should like to draw attention to the brain symptoms shown in all three cases, and to the condition of left ventricle of heart, as shown in the two-cases in which I was able to make a post-mortem.

Finally, it may be of interest to add that my client settled the case amicably with the owner of the paint tins, and received £40 as compensation.

W. Waters, M.R.C.V.S.

Blofield, Norwich.

Mr. P. Deighton, Selby, and Mr. W. P. Weston York, officiated as veterinary surgeons to the Escrick Agricultural Society held on June 23.

ABSTRACTS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS

The Bacteriological Diagnosis of Anthrax by Cultures from the Skin.

Ciuca, professor at the Higher School of Veterinary Medicine of Roumania, and Stoicescu, an army veterinary surgeon, contribute an important article upon this subject to the journal issued by the School (*Arhiva Veterinara*), No. 2, vol. vj., April, 1909). The article is an account of work performed in the laboratory of micro-biology and pathological anatomy attached to the school, and if the conclusions of the authors are confirmed, the most serious present difficulty in the diagnosis of anthrax will cease to exist.

The authors call attention to the well-known difficulty, and frequent impossibility, of arriving at a positive diagnosis of anthrax by microscopic examination, after putrefaction has commenced. This of course arises from the fact that the bacillus only exists in the organs in its vegetative form, in which it is speedily destroyed by putrefaction. The resistant sporulated form is only found in exceptional cases in the organs, and then only at the surface of fragments to which oxygen has gained access at a temperature sufficient for sporulation.

The skin, hair, and wool of anthrax carcases, however, always bear bacilli which have sporulated; and various authors (Bollinger, Broca, Griglio, Nocard, etc.) have described cases of human infection arising from this source, even after the infective material had undergone such processes as tanning, etc.

One such outbreak of anthrax in man occurred recently in Roumania, and formed the starting point of the authors' researches. Eighteen agricultural labourers became infected with anthrax by wearing sandals made from the skin of a cow which had died two months before. One patient died twenty-four hours after infection, the others were successfully treated by the serum method.

The bacteriological diagnosis was made from the sandals worn by these men, and the test was performed repeatedly upon the same material, positive results being obtained even after fourteen months had elapsed.

This proved that the anthrax bacillus finds suitable conditions for sporulation either in the capillaries of the skin, or in blood which has escaped by hæmorrhage into the thickness or upon the surface of the skin.

The authors founded their method of diagnosing anthrax upon this knowledge of the constant existence of spores in the skin, and undertook a series of experiments which completely support their theory.

The following is a brief summary of the method they employ. Small pieces of dried skin and hairs are obtained by lightly scraping with a knife the skin to be investigated. These fragments are then powdered with a sterile pestle and mortar, after which a few drops of sterilised water are added to the powder, and the trituration is continued until an emulsion is formed. This will contain a solid residue of connective tissue fibres and hairs which have resisted trituration and which must be separated as far as possible to avoid blocking the pipette with which the emulsion is to be taken up for the cultures.

A portion of the emulsion is now taken up, transferred to a tube of bouillon, and shaken until well mixed Usually further dilutions—one or more—are made by passing a portion of the mixture into other tubes of bouillon, as is usual when the ultimate object is the preparation of plate cultures: but when the material under investigation is very old or putrefying, the authors dispense with this.

The inseminated bouillon is then submitted for half an hour to a constant temperature of 70 C. (=154 F.) The object of this is to destroy all bacteria existing in the vegetative form, the temperature named being sufficient for this, but insufficient to destroy anthrax spores.

Finally, a portion of the bouillon is placed in liquefied agar, and plate cultures are made, and kept at a temperature of 37 C. (=98·6 F.)

The plate cultures are examined at the end of fourteen hours when, if anthrax exists, small colonies of anthrax bacilli will be found. Fresh cultures should be made from these as soon as they appear, upon bouillon and gelatine, in which media the characters are more specific than in agar.

The authors give details of a lengthy series of observations upon thirty-two animals of different species (cattle, horses, sheep, rabbits, and guinea-pigs) in support of their conclusions. These can only be briefly summarised. Some were made upon animals which had been experimentally infected with anthrax by ingestion or inoculation, others upon animals dying in the hospital of the Veterinary School from anthrax contracted naturally, and others again upon pieces of skin and viscera sent to the laboratory for diagnosis from a distance.

In the case of animals dying under their own observation the authors, of course, established the diagnosis, in the first place, by microscopic examination of the blood, immediately after death, this being also controlled by cultural experiments. Usually, however, after having thus ascertained the existence of anthrax, they deliberately postponed an antopsy for two or more days, when, as might be expected, they failed to again find anthrax bacilli in the blood or organs. Anthrax bacilli could, however, be cultivated from the skin by the method described above, even when the skin was not removed until the carcase was putrefying.

Only in two cases did anthrax bacilli fail to develope from the cultures from the skin, and in neither of these had the disease been allowed to run its natural course unchecked.

Both were experimental animals which, at the time of their infection by inoculation, had also received an injection of anti-anthrax serum.

Similarly successful results were obtained from the examination of skin and viscera sent to the laboratory from the field.

The authors describe cases of pieces of skin and viscera from the same animals, arriving together at

the laboratory in a state of putrefaction, when cultures of the anthrax bacillus were obtained from the skin, while the result of the examination of the organs was negative.

In one case cultures were obtained from a piece of skin which had been well salted and afterwards sun-dried. In another case cultures were obtained from a piece of skin, full of maggots.

The method of preparing the skin for transmission to the laboratory, or pressrvation for future use, is very simple. The piece or pieces of skin should be chosen from a region well supplied with capillaries, and, in the case of sheep, having the scantiest covering of wool. Having been removed from the cadaver, the skin is simply stretched upon pieces of wood, to facilitate drying, secured there with nails, and preferably kept in glass jars or wide-mouthed bottles.

The skin, thus preserved by simple drying will continue to yield anthrax bacilli for many months. In many of the authors' cases, periodically repeated cultures from the same piece of dried skin were uniformly successful, the test being repeated monthly in one case for eight months with positive results each month. In this connection it will be remembered that the infective workmen's sandals previously alluded to remained infective after fourteen months had elapsed.

The authors finally formulate the following conclusions from their observations.

1. The vegetative form of the anthrax bacillus does not endure for more than 48 hours within the carcases of animals dead of anthrax, on account of the putrefactive processes which take place in the cadaver. In the capillaries of the skin, it endures longer, and can there find conditions suitable for sporulation later.

2. The spores of the anthrax bacillus in the skin resist the action of atmospheric agents and of chloride of sodium for more than a year.

3. The bacteriological diagnosis of anthrax is always possible by cultures from the skin of putrefied carcases, stretched upon a piece of wood to dry, and sent to laboratories.

4. This method should be adopted as soon as possible for the diagnosis of anthrax in suspected carcases when immediate investigations cannot be undertaken—especially in summer, when the organs rapidly putrefy despite all precautions.

Heredity in Periodic Ophthalmia.

Prof. Schimmel, of Utrecht (*Œsterr. Monatschr. für Tierheilkunde*) records an observation which he regards as supporting the old theory of the hereditary nature of periodic ophthalmia.

The subject was a seven-year old mare, which was brought to his clinique on account of a surgical affection, and was found at the same time to be suffering from periodic ophthalmia of the left eye, with progressive wasting of the eyeball. The animal had already had several previous attaks of periodic ophthalmia, the first occurring about the age of four years. Her mother had become similarly affected—also in the left eye—at about the same age, and had become blind. Another foal of the same mother had also suffered from periodic ophthalmia, and in this case also the left eye was affected, and at the age of about four years.—*Berliner Tierärztliche Wochenschrift*,

[Very similar evidence was once held to prove the heredity of tuberculosis.—Transl.].

W. R. C.

Chronic Swelling of the Spleen.

Hutyra and Marek in their pathology describe the various illnesses of the spleen as acute swelling, purulent inflammation, hæmorrage, rupture, twist, chronic swelling and tumours

Chronic swelling of the spleen arises through venous stoppage. Anything which hinders the flow of blood away through the portal vein, and from the liver through the post vena cavæ, immediately produces stoppage of the venous blood. A copious exit of nourishing material occurs, and consequently an increase in the connective tissue elements in the capsule and trabeculæ of the spleen, causing a continuing increase in the size of the organ

As frequent causes of this may be mentioned thrombosis of the splenic vein, chronic interstitial hepatitis, compression or thrombosis of the vena portæ through a tumour, shrinking connective tissue or a hœmatoma of the liver, and also organic heart disease.

Chronic swelling of the spleen occurs in the following conditions:—

Chronic indurative splenitis. This is occasioned, according to Kitt, by long continuance of toxic infections impetuses (*e.g.*, chronic swine erysipelas).

Leukæmic spleen tumour may be generally diagnosed clinically. The peculiar changes in the blood account for the nature of the increase in size of the organ; if more severe the right designation is a pseudo-leukæmic spleen tumour.

Simple hyperplasia of the spleen is *often* encountered on post-mortem.

The spleen is generally extraordinarily large—in the case of Bourret and Drouille the spleen of a horse weighed 21 kilogrammes (about 45 lbs.); in that of Duschanek 39 kilogrammes (about 85 lbs.); and Koch, in a cow, had one about 36 lbs. in weight, and during life the animals showed declining appetite and laboured breathing. On reflection the occurrence of an original or intrinsic hyperplasia seems questionable and, as histological examinations in these reported cases were not undertaken, it is easily possible that the additional volume of the spleen arose from other causes.

G. M.

Oil of Juniper.—The "characters and tests" of oil of juniper as given in the British Pharmacopœia are untrustworthy, and pharmaceutists are endeavouring to define the limits within which genuine oil should fall. It is quite possible to make a spurious oil of juniper that will fulfil the Pharmacopœia requirements. Until it has been decided whether the properties of the oil are due to pinene or to cadinene it will be difficult to fix a standard.

LANCASHIRE, AND LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

A joint quarterly meeting of the two Associations was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on the 10th June, the President of the Lancashire Association, A. Munro, Esq., Altrincham, in the chair, supported by J. B. Wolstenholme, Esq., Manchester, President of the Liverpool Association. The attendance included Messrs. Lomas, Packman, Edwards, Heyes, Giblin, Walker, W. A. Taylor, Stent, Mattinson, Burndred, Richardson, Hewetson, Darwell, Ball, Lloyd, Eaton-Jones, Brittlebank, Fletcher, Sheffield; Wilson, Carter, Garnett, Abson, Fletcher, Wrexham; G. H. Locke, Holburn, Ferguson, Gubbin, and Prof. Williams.

Visitors: Prof. Charnock Bradley, Messrs. Whitehead, Montgomery, and Moon.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Faulkner, S. Locke, Prof. Hobday, Hughes, Wharam, Allen, Laithwood, Sumner, and Woods.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, on the proposal of Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Packman.

Mr. J. D. WHITEHEAD, Salford, was unanimously elected a member of the Lancashire Association.

"THE PRINCIPLE OF AMALGAMATION OF THE VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS."

Professor O. CHARNOCK BRADLEY, Edinburgh: Mr. President and gentlemen,—Would you allow me in the first place to express my thanks for the opportunity that your Council has given me to be here this afternoon. The opportunity is better than I first thought it would be, because I see that the meeting represents two societies and not one, as I anticipated. That means to say, therefore, if I make out a good case I convert Lancashire and not Manchester only.

I suppose we all admit that the National Veterinary Association has done good work, and that it has, as its constitution indicates, looked after the honour and interests of the profession. I suppose, also, that it would be claimed that each individual veterinary society in the kingdom has also done good work. That being so it may be objected that we require no further machinery—that we have all that is required.

I would submit, however, we have no mouthpiece of the profession. The National Veterinary Association, valuable though its services in the past have been, is not, and cannot be, representative of the profession. It has a membership of some four hundred; that means to say that it represents about one-seventh of the profession. Each individual society can hardly consider that it is representative of the profession; sometimes it may scarcely say it is representative of its own district. One knows without giving concrete examples that there are societies, the membership of which is exceedingly small. I have one such society in mind now where the attendance is limited to some half dozen, and yet it is in one of the towns where veterinary surgeons are exceedingly numerous.

In the next place can all the societies in the United Kingdom be taken as representing the profession? If it were possible to get a vote from all the societies in Great Britain and Ireland could we claim that that was the voice of the profession?

How many members are there of all the societies? Some eight hundred, and that figure, which represents, let us say, rather more than a quarter of the profession, includes men counted twice, and possibly even more than twice, because they belong to more than one society.

It is clear, therefore, to my mind that there is really no body that can adequately represent a society in furthering its interests, especially furthering its interests when large questions are at issue. I may put aside the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, because it has its own peculiar functions.

In case the profession desires to move a public body, municipal or otherwise, it is necessary to put into operation an exceedingly cumbrous and slow piece of machinery. Perhaps two societies determine that such-and-such a thing shall be done; they accordingly circularise other societies, the other societies do not meet, say, for several months, and as a consequence delay results. Even if the societies have met and come to a definite conclusion (which is not always arrived at) the society which took the initial step may not meet for some time, and so further delay results.

In the past it was perhaps not so exceedingly important that we could be able to exert influence upon other bodies, but now there is springing up what one may call, with perfect justice, a class of specialists in the profession who have to be catered for. With the origin of the specialist has arisen the treatment of the specialist by public bodies, and I put it to you as to whether public bodies, using the word in a wide sense, have treated veterinary surgeons in exactly the way they ought to be treated.

As a matter of fact you are going to consider this afternoon the question of fees paid by insurance companies, which I think comes under the heading of public bodies. If for no other reason than the one just mentioned I think we should have a Council or Committee or some recognised authoritative body which could approach municipal and other authorities and point out to them that they, that is to say the Council or committee, have the profession behind them, and that therefore the decisions may be taken as the feeling of the whole profession.

In Parliamentary matters also it would be well, if it were possible, rapidly and definitely to ascertain the feeling of the profession now. I say it as one more or less behind the scenes, and as one who has maintained a neutral position, that the present Registration Bill would have received less opposition had it been possible to arrange a conference between the northern and southern parts of the country. I say it with confidence that the matter would have been settled amicably long before this. Such a conference did not take place for the simple reason that there is no authorised body to call it together, unless the Royal College had done so, and they did not feel it to be within their province.

For these reasons alone I feel that the profession would benefit were it possible to amalgamate, or if the word is objectionable, to have a co-operation between the veterinary societies. I fancy the word amalgamation has give rise to a wrong conception, and has perhaps caused most of you to think that some attempt was being made to destroy the individuality and independence of the existing societies. Now to my mind it would not be a difficult matter to produce a scheme of amalgamation or co-operation and yet leave existing societies exactly as they are. It is a question of autonomy and can be readily settled.

The movement towards amalgamation or co-operation has not gone very far, indeed it is not possible that it can proceed to any length until a conference is arranged between representatives of the various societies. The initiative had to be taken by someone, and so the Scottish Metropolitan Society circularised the various societies asking for their views on the principle of amalgamation; the response was so encouraging that we thought we might take the second step, and the last so far as our Society is concerned, and arrange a conference of representatives from the various societies. No doubt when

the correspondence on your agenda is read there will be a letter asking you to send representatives to a conference to be held at Harrogate on 6th July, immediately after the meeting of the Council of the National Veterinary Association By sending representatives I may say you do not in any way commit yourselves ; you do not even say you agree with amalgamation ; your representatives are simply there to listen to what is said.

The object of the conference is to draw up some sort of scheme which shall be submitted to individual societies for criticism, for re-adjustment or for abolition.

What are the objections to amalgamation ? I think the first objection has arisen, as I have said before, out of a misconception. It is based on sentimental grounds. There is a fear felt by some societies that they will lose their independence either in part or in full. I think I can assure you there is not the slightest intention of that. The draft scheme which will be submitted as a basis for discussion will provide for complete autonomy by the various societies.

Then there has been a fear that possibly the amalgamated society would make for fewer meetings, and meetings perhaps at less convenient centres. That objection is answered again by saying that the societies which will form part of the amalgamated society will arrange their own meeting place and have as many meetings as they choose.

It has been asked " What about the National Association ? Were we starting an opposition body ?" The answer is that it is hoped the National Veterinary Association will form the nucleus of another, and, if possible, a more powerful veterinary association. It is not even proposed to change the name, it is simply to give a wider scope to the energies of the National V.A. and to increase its utility as an instrument for the furtherance of the honour and interests of the profession.

The matter of subscription has been mooted by more than one. They say, If we have an amalgamated society it will be necessary to increase the subscription. Now quite a number of veterinary surgeons pay subscriptions to the local society and to the National Association, quite a number pay in addition to one other society. I may say that, in any case, I think there will be no attempt to make the subscription greater than the present subscription to one society and the National Association, probably it will be less. Whatever the subscription may be, there will be more value for the money.

There are many possibilities in an amalgamated society. The possibility that the reorganised veterinary association may have a weekly journal of its own, which would be supplied free to the various members. This may sound ambitious, but I am perfectly persuaded that it could be done. There are other directions of course in which the reorganised society might further benefit the profession. There are practitioners in country districts who are very largely cut off from a supply of reading and find considerable difficulty in keeping themselves in touch with current professional literature. It appears to me possible that the wants of these isolated practitioners might be met by the reorganised National Veterinary Association. The directions in which the new Association would find scope for its energies are numerous on the face of it, and I feel perfectly convinced that there are many that are not obvious, many that would only be brought to light when the new Association got into full working order.

This, perhaps, is not the place to outline a scheme, but I may take the opportunity of doing so. The scheme as I see it at present is that the present societies would be recognised as divisions of a national veterinary association. When questions of a local character arose it would be a good thing if the divisions were grouped into so many branches, the branches again being practically independent of other branches in that they would be entitled to send representatives of the Council of the Association as also would the divisions. In that way one would hope to cater first for the requirements of a particular district as is done by the individual societies ; secondly, cater for certain wider areas in which several societies would be grouped ; thirdly, to provide a central governing body of the association on which would sit representatives of both divisions and branches.

That is a scheme in the very barest outline, and naturally it is a one-person scheme, and therefore not to be taken into consideration at the present moment. It is a scheme which has received no sanction by any society, but will be put forward as a basis for discussion at the representative meeting at Harrogate, and will be done with exactly what that meeting thinks fit.

I will not occupy further time except to say I am exceedingly glad to meet the two societies of Lancashire on one occasion, and I hope that in this matter, as in many others, one's native county will stand for progress.

Mr. TAYLOR asked what was the communication which Prof. Bradley had alluded to.

Mr. G. H. LOCKE replied that at their last meeting a communication dated February 15th, 1909, from the Scottish Metropolitan V.M.S. containing a resolution in favour of the principle of amalgamation was considered and referred to the Council for consideration and report. The Council met on May 3rd and decided to invite Prof. Bradley to come and give his views on the subject at the next meeting. On the latter date a further letter was received from the Scottish Society stating that as a result of their circular letter the matter had received a large amount of support and they were taking steps to promote a meeting of representatives of the different societies with the object of drafting a scheme of amalgamation and inviting each society to send representatives.

The PRESIDENT then invited discussion.

Mr. LLOYD proposed that the Lancashire V.M.A. send two delegates to attend the conference at Harrogate on July 6th. No doubt many of them would remember that the question was not a new one. Prof. Macqueen had tackled it in 1897, and a conference was held in Leeds, but the result was not what was expected. The same thing arose in 1905 when the matter of Parliamentary representation arose, and he then wrote to *The Veterinary Record* that some amalgamation should take place. From what Prof. Bradley had said it was obvious that he had the British Medical Association in his mind when outlining a scheme. They certainly wanted combination, which they had not at present.

Mr. BRITTLEBANK wished to second the proposal, and at the same time congratulate Prof. Bradley on the lucid way in which the scheme had been placed before them. Those members of the profession who are in public appointments feel the need of some association like this. No doubt under future legislation there will be many openings for veterinary surgeons throughout the country, and such a society or association will be able to do good work for those officers in such positions who cannot very well speak for themselves. The model of the British Medical Association appeared to have been followed, and that Association had asserted its usefulness in no indefinite manner. He regarded them as trade unions, and those principles would have to be applied to all matters if they wished to attain the position they should hold in public affairs.

Mr. RICHARDSON said that Prof. Bradley when alluding to the number of members, did not show how that membership would be increased. Allusion had also been made to the advantage of having a mouthpiece for the profession, but to his mind the only authorised mouthpiece is the existing Council of the Royal College, and to have two mouthpieces would be unfortunate. The matter of finance had been passed over very lightly,

It had been said that the present subscriptions would not need to be increased, but no suggestion was offered as to how the new organisation would be financed. The new journal, for instance, would require a large sum of money. He saw no possibility of the new organisation being more helpful than the existing one. The supposed advantage of groups of societies could be gained at present, as instanced by the meeting that day, and they were more likely to join together voluntarily than by a committee of the new Society.

Prof. WILLIAMS expressed interest in what had been said. If the intention to form an amalgamated body of the various societies was purely for scientific purposes he agreed with amalgamation, but if the amalgamation was going to be what might be called political amalgamation he quite disagreed. He considered that the Royal College does the political work of the Society, and is the only authorised body to do that work. If another body be created that is going to interfere with the politics of the profession then there would be chaos. He agreed that for scientific purposes, groups, and divisions might do more work than individual societies. What might happen is that the profession should express an opinion that the Royal College does not meet often enough. They only met once a quarter, and very often had five or six committee meetings on one day and three committee and two council meetings the next day. The whole of the work being thus crowded into two days was arduous, and he would not object to attend in London monthly. Particularly was this so in regard to committees where matters of vital importance are concerned.

The PRESIDENT at this stage purposed taking a vote on the proposal to send two representatives to the conference at Harrogate, but after some discussion it was decided to take a vote after Prof. Bradley had replied.

Mr. TAYLOR, as a member of the Lancashire V.M.A. for 39 years, spoke both from a sentimental and practical point of view. They were discussing the principle of amalgamation, and when two societies amalgamate one or both cease to exist. He did not want to see any society take the place of the Lancashire V.M.A., and would regret to see it lose either in dignity, independence, or in any way likely to interfere with the unfettered action as decided by its members. He agreed with the principle, but refused to give an opinion until he saw the scheme in concrete form. They did not want a redundancy of superior governing bodies.

Mr. GARNETT, as one of the supporters of Professor Macqueen's scheme some twelve years ago, said amalgamation was an exceedingly difficult problem to carry into effect. If the scheme is to be carried out it must be by some effacement of the local societies, and yet if this would lead to bringing in apathetic members the sacrifice would be justified by the results. He did not believe that Prof. Bradley intended to bring forward a political organisation.

Mr. FLETCHER would be pleased to see any scheme go forward which would increase their numbers.

Mr. WOLSTENHOLME reminded the meeting that no definite scheme had been placed before them. If their profession was not so democratic he would be in favour of the scheme. Supposing amalgamation came about and there was some political topic being thrashed out. The divisions and grouped societies would meet and vote and there would be a majority one way or the other; but would the central body be justified in saying that was the opinion of the profession. It appeared to him that the rights of the minority would be lost sight of. So far as advancing scientific interest was concerned that would commend itself to all.

Mr. MATTINSON thought that the speakers had established a case for amalgamation. He instanced the Farmers' Association as already working on the lines indicated by Prof. Bradley.

Mr. HEYES was of opinion that there was sufficient machinery at present to carry on their work. He would, however, support the proposal.

Prof. BRADLEY, in reply, thanked them for their expressions of opinion. He had come really to speak of the principle of amalgamation, but was ill-advised enough to give a sketch plan of a scheme. That was a mistake; because all the discussion had centred round a scheme which is supposed to be in existence. No scheme exists, and only the principle of amalgamation was before them. He regretted the word political had been brought in because each person had a different idea of the word. He thought it would be absolute madness for him or anyone else to suggest the formation of an organisation that would offer the slightest obstacle to the Royal College. It was too absurd to contemplate. He sympathised with the older members of the Society and others who desired to retain their independence, and would regret any step that would interfere with the individuality or independence of any society.

The proposal was then put and carried.

Mr. TAYLOR moved, and Mr. Darwell seconded, that the President and Secretary should attend the Conference. This was carried, as was also a proposal by Mr. Giblin, seconded by Mr. Locke, that Mr. Lloyd's name be added to the delegates.

A vote of thanks to Prof. Bradley was cordially given.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mr. G. H. LOCKE read the proceedings of the Council on the above subject. They recommend that the following alteration be made in the rules, viz., "No newly elected member shall participate in the benefits of the Society or receive an announcement of the meetings until his entrance fee and first year's subscription have been paid."

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OF R.C.V.S.

Mr. G. H. LOCKE reported that the four gentlemen supported by them had been elected. He submitted a letter dated 15th May, 1909, from the Midland Counties V.M.A. containing a resolution to join the Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Eastern Counties Associations in regard to the election, and explained how the letter was too late for consideration this year.

A letter from the National Veterinary Benevolent and Mutual Defence Society with rules and annual report was also submitted.

PAYMENT OF FEES BY INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Mr. E. H. STENT: Mr. President and gentlemen: In asking you to discuss the question of the low fees offered to members of our profession by horse insurance companies for the inspection and report on animals for insurance, I am aware that some companies offer slightly better terms than others, but in no case do I consider they offer suitable remuneration for the services required from a professional man.

Just previous to bringing this matter before our last quarterly meeting, I had been asked by one company to go two miles and examine one horse for a fee of 2/6, by another company to go four miles and examine three valuable shire horses for a fee of 7/6. I refused, and was immediately offered a more suitable fee in each case. When I found that both companies agreed so readily to my terms, it occurred to me that if pressure was brought to bear by this and other societies upon the various companies a better scale of fees could be insisted upon. To expect a professional man to make a journey of probably several miles, examine, and value the animal, fill in a certificate form on which information of a private nature is asked, for a fee of about 2/6 is altogether outrageous. When a large number are to be examined this fee might be considered adequate, but it is then that the fee is limited to a maximum, although the insurer pays the same rate of premium for each

horse, but in my experience large numbers are the exception, the majority being from one to four. The saving policy now adopted by most companies of having the horses examined once in three years instead of annually is another injustice to the veterinary surgeon, whose fee is thus pocketted by the companies. I have been informed by the manager of one company that horse insurance does not pay, and that a bigger fee for the veterinary examination is impossible at the premiums charged. Then I say let the premiums be increased, as they are only at their present rate through the cutting methods adopted to get business, and this at the expense of the veterinary surgeon.

To many practitioners this question may be of little importance, but any matter, however trivial, affecting the interests and dignity of the profession is worthy of consideration.

Mr. CARTER said a short time ago he received 5/- for examining two horses and had to travel about four miles. He wrote to the Insurance company pointing this out, but got the reply that they could not pay more. It was a matter for consideration as to whether they ought to refuse to attend such cases.

Mr. GARNETT expressed pleasure that the subject had been taken up, for it would be a practical service to the profession at large. Personally he only answered the sanitary questions and as to whether the animal is suitable. They ought not to lower themselves by giving a certificate of soundness for 2/6 or 3/6. He suggested that the matter be referred to the Council to draw up a reasonable scale of charges. The opinion of other societies could be obtained and the various insurance companies could be approached.

Mr. FLETCHER agreed that the fee was inadequate; there were other things to be taken into consideration, however. They generally took these cases when in the vicinity, and did not make special journeys. The real hardship occurred as between agent and veterinary surgeon, as the cost to the company is something like 28½ per cent., of which the agent got about 20 per cent. The question was whether the surgeon should act as agent (several members gave an emphatic "No!") He did not agree with that opinion, if touting was not done.

Mr. PACKMAN thought a fee of 10/6 little enough. The present remuneration was too small altogether.

Mr. GIBLIN pointed out that, if one member of the profession refused to take the cases, another would do so. That was to be deplored, but it was a fact. There were mushroom companies spring up from which it was sometimes difficult to obtain a fee of 2/6. He hoped the question would be taken up by the Council, and he proposed it be referred to them for consideration and report.

Mr. BRITTLEBANK was of opinion that the matter should be referred to the Council of the Royal College.

Mr. LLOYD said, in his younger days, he was glad to take up an agency. It then worked out to 12½ per cent. on new business and 10 per cent on renewals; this was worth getting. They should also remember that at the present day they could insure animals with a certain company without any examination.

Mr. WOLSTENHOLME remarked that, in the case of a poor client, he considered he was doing a service to the client by examining for a fee of 2/6.

Mr. GARNETT seconded the proposal to refer the matter to the Council of the Lancashire V.M.A., and it was carried.

Mr. STENT said, in reply, that most veterinary surgeons were not agents, therefore the question of commission "levelling it up" had nothing to do with the professional fees. If a determined front were shown by the majority he was sure the fees would be increased. Since he first mentioned this subject he had received letters from insurance companies, asking his opinion on their scale of fees, and indicating a willingness to consider the matter. He agreed with Mr. Garnett that it was a subject for the various veterinary societies to attend to, and not the Royal College! Mr. Wolstenholme's fear that refusing to examine for a low fee might affect a poor client was not to be considered, as the companies made no distinction, and it would be always open for a veterinary surgeon to return his fee, or part, to his client, in a deserving case. He was pleased to see that all were of opinion that some steps should be taken.

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMEN.

Mr. STENT submitted part of the stomach and bowels of a fox-terrier puppy, nine months old. It had recently been purchased for a large sum, and when seen the week previous was lively, although in rather poor condition. He was called a few days after to see it, as the owner suspected poisoning. The dog was then in a very low state, but had been well the night before. It died, and, on post-mortem examination, the bowels showed symptoms of acute gastritis, but no signs of irritant poison. The pecularity of the case was the rapidity of the illness.

A vote of thanks to the President and Mr. Stent closed the meeting.

THE VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

A meeting was held in the Gresham Hotel, Sackville Street, Dublin, on Friday, 28th May, at 8 o'clock p.m. Mr. John Holland, President, took the chair. There were present: Messrs. M. Hedley, J. McKenny, A. Watson, M. J. Cleary, G. H. S. Jarratt, A. J. Moffett, R. W. Flannery, F. C. Ryan, Profs. Craig and O'Connor, W. Chambers, J. D. Richardson, P. J. Howard, Major Eassie, D.S.O., and W. H. Wilkinson, Hon. Sec.; and as visitor, Capt. Plunkett.

The HON. SEC. announced letters of apology from Messrs. Hewson, Hilliard, Dobbyn, Pierse, Taylor, Ross, Prof. Duncan, Col. Reilly, Thompson (Lurgan) Col. Steele, Norris, Patrick, Purcell (Mullingar), and M. Healy.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed. The report of the Council was submitted.

Messrs. W. ASHE KING and MARKHAM were elected members of the Association.

Sir CHARLES CAMERON and Sir CHRISTOPHER NIXON were elected Honorary Associates.

Mr. HEDLEY: This is the first occasion on which Mr. Holland has presided at our meetings, and he is to-night, as it were, installed into his new office. I do not think it is necessary for me to introduce him to you. You know him as well as I do, and it is owing to the fact that you know him so well and think so highly of him that he is placed in the presidential chair. I trust he will be long spared to preside over the deliberations of the Association. (Hear, hear.)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Mr. JOHN HOLLAND, M.R.C.V.S.

Gentlemen,—I am fully alive to the great reasons which I have for feeling thankful to you for the signal favour which you have bestowed on me by unanimously electing me to the presidency of this honourable Association. My gratitude and obligation are intensified a hundredfold by the consciousness of my not possessing the attributes which would render me worthy to succeed those gentlemen of high capacity who have preceded me in office. More especially the giant in science who has so ably filled the chair during the past two years.

Let me assure the gentlemen who so kindly asked me to become an aspirant to the position, that my hesitancy

was entirely due to diffidence in myself, and not in any sense to want of appreciation of the high compliment which they desired to confer on me. It was only at last when one gentleman said to me, "Now you must not refuse, and you may feel certain that we will make your duties as light as possible" that I somewhat reluctantly consented. Not, however, till I had consulted the rules to find out if it would not be competent for us to again secure the eminent services of Professor Mettam.

Never having ambitioned being other than a full private, I have not studied the mode of conducting meetings, consequently I stand before you a mere figurehead, counting on the assistance of these gentlemen well skilled in the rules of debate, relying also on the cordial support and forbearance of each individual member of the Association. The genial disposition which I have experienced on all sides during the years which it has been my pleasure to come amongst you buoys me up with the hope that though you may have reasons to feel disappointed in me during my term, you will yet not think harshly of your humble servant.

Whatever else I may lack, there is no want of a desire for the well-being of this Association, which has accomplished so much for its members. Perhaps it is this one feature, which some of you thought-readers may have discerned in me, which actuated you in placing me here. It would be useless attempting to enumerate the many advantages which this Society affords. Perhaps in no way does it more profitably benefit than by being the means of preventing misunderstandings and conflicts which, in the absence of such an Association, might spring up amongst us outside—to the amusement of a curious public and, perchance, in some instances, the support of the law courts. We are deeply indebted to the gentlemen who established this Association on such a sound basis and kept it in such efficient working order—some of the gentlemen, indeed, having no direct personal interests to serve. Long may they live amongst us to afford the benefit of their counsel! The wisdom of the unity and the avoidance of captiousness which this Society has taught has served in no small degree to elevate the veterinary profession in Ireland.

Brooding over trifles often makes mole hills into mountains. This was very forcibly exemplified to me a short time ago by a gentleman who happened to be in a neighbour's house whilst and where a suicide was committed. He said: "Had the unfortunate only confided in me, the calamity would have been averted, as it should not have been difficult to appease, considering that the little annoyance which is said to have led up to it was more imaginative than real." You must not suppose that I deem it probable that any hard-headed veterinarian is ever likely to have recourse to such a rash act. My object in mentioning this matter is for the purpose of illustrating the usefulness of having a friendly tribunal in which one may safely confide.

Seldom has it been necessary for us to investigate misunderstandings between our members, and the very rare time which such has occurred, matters were so amicably arranged that each went his way in peace, or at least so cooled down by having let off a little steam as to be enabled to say, "What about it? It will be all the same a hundred years hence!"

The only bone of contention which I have observed recurring here in later years is that having reference to veterinary lectures. I do not mean those given within the precincts of the College; that I need hardly say. Not having attended any itinerary lecture, I have no personal knowledge of the cause of complaint. Now I must say that I have a certain amount of sympathy with the lecturers, who are often placed in a rather delicate position. They go into a strange locality, are courteously received and, probably, complimented in one form or other, their eloquence extolled, it may be, whilst they are being shown the various places of interest. Then, if at an opportune time they are asked to exceed the bounds of their mission, surely they find it difficult to refuse.

No item in such lecture is so highly prized as a prescription, and, coming from gentlemen who people are likely to suppose to be beyond the ordinary practitioner, the recipe is adopted as a cure-all by many. I am of opinion that, when a lecturer drifts beyond the limits of his employers' intentions in this particular line, it would be his bounden duty to impress upon the recipients the fallacy of looking upon his prescriptions as sheet-anchors, and that each case, of even the same disease, requires a variation of treatment, according to the train of symptoms. Not only that, but that a single case requires changes of treatment to suit the different stages and concomitants; otherwise loss to the stock-owner is sure to result. Well, perhaps lecturers have sometimes tried to do this!

Whilst I have not been at any of the lectures I have, like all of you, heard remarks here and there. A reverend gentleman whom I met in Co. Waterford in the autumn of 1907 told me that he had attended a lecture some evenings previously, at which he heard prescriptions given, which he hardly thought fair to the profession. I may mention that the reverend gentleman has, I believe, a good family of his own, some of whom perhaps he may have intended apprenticing to a near relation who happens to be a veterinary surgeon, hence, probably, the sharp notice which he took of the occurrence. Selfishness, the motive power of the world, the fulcrum on which all things work. A short time subsequently I met his veterinary relative, who told me that a neighbouring pharmaceutical chemist had said to him, "See this prescription which I got at the veterinary lecture the other evening: it was so highly recommended I purpose making it up and advertising it for sale. I know it is unfair to you, but you can hardly blame me under the circumstances!"

The tendency at the present day is to make every man his own horse and cattle doctor. To this we, as one of the most unselfish and self-sacrificing professions in existence, would have little or no objection did we deem it for the good of the community. We could turn our attention to other pursuits, and put our boys to other callings far less laborious and more profitable. But we know too well that notwithstanding our College course through all the "ologies," and our long experience, how puzzling it sometimes is even for us to cope with the variety of strange cases which crop up from time to time amongst our dumb patients. I repeat, our dumb patients. Then is it likely that however proficient the general public may become, they will be able to accomplish what we often find difficult.

Were we supplanted to-morrow, would the common wealth benefit thereby? In this age of specialization the answer must be in the negative. Any sane man knows that the last stage would be worse than the first.

Our magnificently equipped College is attracting an abundance of students from all quarters, and no wonder that Irish boys, with their great love of stock, particularly the horse, should flow to such a seat of knowledge, but should the inroads which have been made on our domain go on increasing, is it probable that the influx of students will continue? Why, old practitioners in England have told me that they are at present putting their sons to almost anything else in preference.

Can anyone deny that a lot of ground has been slipped from beneath us? As an unselfish profession we have very properly contributed to this state of things, for in season and out of season we advocated the stamping-out of contagious and infectious diseases, and the breeding of sound animals, with the result that we have not now one horse to fire to the eighty we had some few years ago; nor have we one draught horse to examine to

the forty we had before the introduction of motor power, and treatment of the latter class has decreased in the same ratio.

Every discovery which we make is published to the world either by letters or reports of our meetings. Many of the now plentiful medicine vendors take undue advantage of our openness. No doubt there are honourable exceptions. In the neighbouring town of Carlow, which I visit occasionally, there are three chemists who never step outside their own sphere, and are consequently respected as professional gentlemen and not empirics, and when all is said and done perhaps the latter style of chemist may prove the best friend to his profession, for if driven to it, what is to prevent our stocking the numerous sundry and proprietary articles which prove no small source of the chemists' income, and who knows but that medical men may not find it necessary to follow a somewhat similar course later on with reference to their prescriptions.

I trust you will not consider me narrow-minded because of the groove into which I have entered. Really, it strikes me that it is time we should trim our sails somewhat if we are to save a useful profession from extinction. Whilst there is no immediate danger of a wholesale supplanting, is there not a possibility of it by what I might term a cankerous process—slow, but equally sure. Deny the student the prospect of a living wage and he will shun the Veterinary College, which as a consequence must fall away.

I was particularly glad to see Professor Macqueen's suggestion as to the amalgamation of veterinary societies, for it so happens, before his scheme came to light, I had thought of an arrangement on somewhat similar lines by which certain portions of our proceedings should reach only members of the different veterinary societies. What I have in mind, however, could be more judiciously discussed *in camera* in the first instance.

I fear that I have wearied you with what I suppose is an unusual form of address. No doubt something of a scientific nature would be much more interesting, but you will have opportunities enough of hearing such from others better calculated to deal with it. It will be admitted, however, that the £ s. d. portion of any business is a thing not to be entirely despised.

I will mention by way of variation a little experience which I had about three months ago as to the value of strychnine, in resuscitation and as an antidote.

Six fowls were suffering from chloral poisoning. I injected strychnine into five, the sixth was dead before I could reach her. One of the remaining five was so slightly affected by the poison that I only injected her once, but gave her coffee, inhalation of Amyl Nitrite, and warmth, like the remaining four. To my surprise, No. 5, though able to walk about, died after a couple of days, whilst the four bad ones to which I gave repeated hypodermic injections of strychnine for nearly a week, lived. One of the latter was a bantom, half adult age, and she lay on her side all the time, and there would not be a visible sign of respiration many a time prior to the injection. I had also recourse to artificial respiration at times.

I might also mention the ill effects which I have observed occurring through the too sudden separation of the fœtus from the dam at the close of parturition when traction is applied. Collapse of the mother and progeny from hæmorrhage and shock, chorea, amaurosis and general debility of the newly born. Not alone have I found it safer to not snap the umbilical vessels too quickly, but in weakly youngsters especially I have found it most beneficial to hold them quite close to the vulva so that maternal nutrition should be afforded till blood æration was well established in the natural course.

Another useful article which I think the practitioner should carry with him is æther. About five weeks ago I took a calf from a cow, and the bowels of the latter came out with the hind legs of the calf, and were got back with very great difficulty. The calf was so weak that it had to be sponged at a fire, it was able to stand after 20 hours and drink with the aid of the finger. Five mornings afterwards I was told that the calf was dying, and when I got to the calf-house the owner said it was dead, and to all intents and purposes so it seemed to me. I made the man have recourse to artificial respiration and proceeded to get two drachms of æther into side of neck of the calf. Respiration soon became apparent, and the calf was running about in three or four hours. Such goes to show that we should make a final effort, even though life may seem extinct.

I am greatly indebted to you, gentlemen, for the very patient hearing which you have given me, especially as no doubt some will think that I have spoken in too pessimistic a strain in view of the era now dawning. To my mind, however, except in a few large cities the Dairies and Cowsheds Order etc. will go only a very short way to make up for what we have lost in other directions.

Mr. WATSON: I beg to propose a vote of thanks to our President for his interesting address. I am sure it does not require any words of mine to commend that to you. He has touched on many subjects in such an interesting fashion and with such perfect ease that I am sure we were all dumbfounded with his rapidity of thought and excellence of speech. In fact I do not know that any member of the Association was aware we had amongst us one possessed of so much eloquence. (Hear, hear.) We have all revered the President for his good comradeship and wisdom, but I am sure none of us was conscious that there was in that head so much eloquence. Personally, I was absolutely charmed with his address, and I have great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to him for it, and I propose that the address be printed and circulated amongst the members.

Mr. CHAMBERS: I have very much pleasure in seconding that. The motion was passed with acclamation.

Mr. HEDLEY: Mr. President, on behalf of the members I desire to express to you our thanks for the admirable and excellent address which you have so kindly delivered on the occasion of your installation.

The PRESIDENT: I have occupied so much of your time already that I shall do nothing more than thank you heartily for your expression of kindly feeling.

The Proposed Amalgamation.—The PRESIDENT: The next business is to consider a letter from Mr. A. J. Gofton, Secretary to the Scottish Metropolitan Veterinary Medical Association *re* the amalgamation of all veterinary medical associations. The letter having been read,

The SECRETARY announced that he had since received another letter from this gentleman inviting the Association to send delegates to a proposed meeting to be held coincidently with the National meeting at Harrogate for the purpose of drafting a scheme of amalgamation to submit to the various societies.

Mr. HEDLEY: This is a subject which is one of very considerable importance to the veterinary profession, and unless it is carefully handled it is quite possible that more harm than benefit may arise. The principle of amalgamation has a good deal to be said in its favour. We know that a bundle of sticks is stronger than a single stick, and it is quite true also that a large number of veterinary medical associations amalgamated will possess greater strength than a single association, especially if located in an isolated part of the United Kingdom. The question of principle is all that we are now asked to agree to, and I think it is a request which we might agree to without any hesitation. The meeting that it is proposed should take place at the period of the National Veterinary Medical Association at Harrogate will probably formulate a detailed scheme and submit it

to all local veterinary associations. After such is done the question will require to be very carefully discussed. There is a number of members of the Association who are members of the National, some will be able to attend. I think it would be quite right that we should ask one to represent us there as a delegate and act in our behalf. I don't know who to suggest, but if any member who is going would send his name to Mr. Wilkinson, then if the next Council meeting takes place before that he might be selected as our delegate if this meeting will instruct the Council to take such action. There are some of us who may be present as members of the National Veterinary Association independently of any delegation from this Association, and such would be fully entitled to hold their own private opinions. I move "That the Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland is of opinion that the principle of amalgamation of all similar associations in the United Kingdom is one which is worthy of favourable consideration and support.

Mr. McKENNY: I beg to second that.

Mr. CLEARY: Would not it be time enough to bind ourselves to the principle of amalgamation when we have the report of our delegate to the proposed meeting?

Mr. McKENNY: We all agree to the principle of union, but this does not necessarily bind us in any way. We will consider the question in detail afterwards, and if we find it is not to our advantage to amalgamate we need not do it.

Mr. CLEARY: I propose as an amendment that we do not now bind ourselves to the principle. I agree to that part of the motion that suggests a delegate should go to the meeting.

Mr. McKENNY: That is a matter of detail.

Mr. CLEARY: I know, but it might be embraced in the question of principle. I think for the present it would be better to adopt that part of the resolution which suggests that a delegate be appointed.

The PRESIDENT: Amalgamation would have a very beneficial effect, and we can adopt the details to a greater or less degree later on as we think it judicious. But it would be no harm now to agree to the principle, and later on you can develop the thing. Really, Mr. Cleary, I don't think there is any harm in agreeing to the principle.

Mr. HOWARD: Would it meet the situation if we simply say that this Association think this subject one worthy of consideration, and that we will send a delegate to attend the Conference to be held at Harrogate which is to discuss the matter?

Mr. HEDLEY: It is not quite the same thing, and the difference is my contention.

Mr. HOWARD: I beg to propose that.

Mr. CLEARY: And I second Mr. Howard's amendment.

Mr. HEDLEY: There is not one of you here who would say that amalgamation would not be for the benefit of our profession, provided that amalgamation be carried out on lines that would suit the local environment. I would furthermore like to suggest that what is now proposed has already been discussed almost in detail in the veterinary weekly papers, and all here should be quite conversant with the points. Therefore it should not be treated as if it were a question sprung on the veterinary profession without any previous introduction. Prof. Bradley read a paper and went into the varied phases, besides this it has been before other veterinary associations and reported upon.

There voted:—For the amendment, 4; against, 11. The motion was carried.

Professor CRAIG: No arrangement has yet been made for the appointment of a delegate to attend this meeting, and I understand no meeting of our Council will be held before the National.

Mr. M'KENNY: I propose that Mr. Howard be our delegate, and that we suggest to the Council that a sum of £5 be contributed towards Mr. Howard's expenses.

Mr. WATSON: I second that. [The motion was passed unanimously.]

Public Health Congress.—The SECRETARY: I have received a letter from the joint secretaries of the Public Health Congress, to be held in Leeds during the autumn, and asking us to appoint delegates for same. This matter was considered by the Council, and a vote was taken, and it was by a majority decided to send a delegate. It was proposed by myself, and seconded by Mr. McKenny, that Mr. Watson be asked to go, and that the sum of £5 be given from the funds of the Association towards his expenses. [The recommendation was adopted unanimously.]

"*Consideration of a resolution which Mr. Watson was asked by the Council to formulate and submit at this Meeting, concerning an article appearing the "Ennis Saturday Record" of March 27th, 1909, suggesting that the Itinerant Instructor for Co. Clare be instructed to deliver lectures on a veterinary subject at different centres in the County.*" The SECRETARY: This relates to a report of proceedings in connection with the usual monthly meeting of the County Clare Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction held on March 22. It appears from the report in the *Ennis Record* that there was a circular read from the Department of Agriculture, stating that in view of the prevalence of contagious abortion in cattle it was of the highest importance that farmers and stockowners should be provided with additional facilities for acquainting themselves with the remedy for its prevention. They requested the Committee to allow Mr. Godfrey to attend the special preliminary demonstration on the subject by Professor Mason, to be given at Limerick on the 13th April, and to arrange with Mr. Godfrey to give a series of lectures in the county touching on the abortion in cattle. It is rather a long report of the proceedings, and I will give you short extracts from it. *(Reading)* "The Chairman inquired would it be a good idea to let Mr. Godfrey go to the instruction to Limerick. Of course, the veterinary surgeons may object. Mr. MacClancy: Mr. Mason's lectures the last time were well attended. The Chairman: Mr. Mason is not coming to Clare to lecture, but Mr. Godfrey is going to Limerick to attend Mr. Mason's lectures, and then Mr. Godfrey comes back to Clare, and goes to the different centres to lecture . . . Mr. Burke: White scour and abortion go hand in hand, in Co. Limerick at all events. Continuing, he said that the last time that the Department's inspector was down he came with Mr. Godfrey in connection with the looking up of diseases in cattle. He showed the people how to inoculate for this terrible scourge. In fact, people were robbed—they could not raise their cattle, for when they were but a week old they died from black quarter. The Departments Inspector went around instructing the people how to treat cattle suffering from black quarter. They treated them successfully, he should say so much so that he did not know they had in that great valley from Killaloe towards O'Callaghan's Mills any case of black quarter since the people were given the instructions how to treat their cattle . . . An order was ultimately made granting Mr. Godfrey permission to attend Prof. Mason's lectures in Limerick, and on his return he was directed to lecture on the subject at Kilmaley, Inagh, Moy, Carrigaholt, Fortane, Cooraclere, and Kilmihull." That is the gist of the thing. Since then an advertisement has appeared in a County Longford paper stating that demonstrations on contagious abortion in cows will be given at selected centres in the county, and that the instructor would attend and explain to farmers the best means for its prevention and cure.

Mr. WATSON: I am sure, from the extracts which you have heard read by the Secretary, that you are all familiar with this most objectionable proceeding, and I

am equally certain that it requires very few words of mine to get an adverse vote from this meeting as to the proceeding. I know, and we all know, the abilities of the men from the Banner County, and we know Mr. Howard, who exemplifies all the genius of that county. But they must possess more than we give them credit for if, after hearing one lecture, they are competent to go round and lecture.

Mr. HOWARD: Allow me to correct you. The man is not a county man at all. If he was we might not object. (Laughter.)

Mr. WATSON: I have heard since, privately, that this gentleman has a very great desire to "quack" amongst stock. You will also see that this thing has gone further, and that it has percolated into County Longford. Now, this proceeding, I think, is not so much the fault of the County Council of the Banner County, or the County Longford, but is the fault of the Department of Agriculture. That Department has got, I don't know how many, veterinary surgeons, but they don't seem to be taken into the confidence of the Department. I am quite certain, if they were asked as to the utility or wisdom of this step, they would not have supported it for one minute. I think we ought to put the saddle on the right horse, and not blame so much either Clare or Longford. I think it is the Department of Agriculture we ought to apply to to put a stop to this proceeding in the future. I would propose the following resolution:—

That we protest against the appointment of laymen to lecture on veterinary subjects, as it may be injurious to the interests of the veterinary practitioner, and certainly useless as a reliable source of instruction to the owners of cattle. Inasmuch as this is brought about as a result of a circular letter from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, we consider that they should take steps to correct this state of affairs in such matters, and so prevent a repetition of such occurrences in the future. We would advise that in future such lectures should be given by members of the veterinary profession, and where practicable they should be local practitioners.

Mr. RICHARDSON: I have great pleasure in seconding that.

Mr. HOWARD: I suppose I should say something on this subject, inasmuch as it was I sent a copy of that paper to our Secretary. Personally, this matter does not hurt me one way or the other. But this is a matter affecting the veterinary profession, and if we allow the principle that laymen—be they agricultural instructors or in any other capacity—should be permitted to go round and lecture on contagious abortion, the next will be that they can lecture on contagion in any and every other disease within the domain of the veterinary surgeon. It is only the thin edge of the wedge. Outside that, the expense of providing laymen is nearly as much as that of providing veterinary surgeons. The veterinary profession in Ireland, as far as I know, is not at all averse to giving information to the country people. We only want to ensure that the information will be given by people who are competent to give it—that is by members of the veterinary profession. (Hear, hear.) [The resolution was passed unanimously.]

Letter from the Hon. Secretary of the National Veterinary Benevolent and Mutual Defence Society. Mr. HEDLEY: There are two Benevolent Associations in England, and we have not, as an Association, subscribed to either. I am not going to suggest that we should do so now. As the subject is before us I would like to say that I think some course should be adopted by which these two Associations could be united into one. If that were done the funds could be administered so that greater good would accrue. I think the fact of there being two Associations which, if I am rightly informed, are not working harmoniously together, then such estrangement is liable to act rather detrimentally to the well-being of each. (Hear, hear). When—if ever, such a union of power takes place, then I would be inclined to suggest that a reasonable subscription should be given from this Association, but at present I do not recommend you to agree to any sum being given to one and not being given to the other, nor do I suggest that we should give an equal amount to each. I move that the letter be marked "read."

Mr. WATSON: I beg to second that. [The motion was passed].

The Balance Sheet for 1909 was submitted by the Hon. Treasurer.—Prof. CRAIG: I think the Society is to be congratulated on its good financial position. We shall be glad to have more money in the bank than we have, but as it is, our Treasurer has given us a most interesting report. I therefore propose that the balance sheet for the year be accepted.

Major EASSIE: I beg to second that. [The motion was passed.

To consider an article appearing in "The Veterinary News" of April 24th, 1909, referring to the Veterinary Surgeons Act.—The SECRETARY read the article headed "A monstrous suggestion."

Mr. WATSON: I am sure that the reading of the article from *The Veterinary News* leaves me very little to say—not that I think it requires much argument to convince this Association of the monstrous suggestion contained in this clause. Personally, I am of the opinion myself that as regards the Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill it should never have had any birth, but it has had birth, and it is on the table of the House, and it has met with very strong opposition and very hostile criticism. But it still remains there, it still is being discussed, and still is receiving very strenuous opposition. I consider that under all the circumstances the promoters of it and the College would be very well advised if they dropped the Bill. However, that is only a pious opinion of mine. In this clause you will observe that it is proposed to place the Board of Agriculture both in England and Ireland as the judges of the veterinary profession. Well, considering the matter we have had under discussion to-night with reference to the Department of Agriculture in Ireland giving their support to laymen who take the bread and butter out of the mouths of duly qualified practitioners, I think it would be unwise, unsafe, and imprudent to place them in a position of judges over the affairs of the profession. I do not think it requires any argument to show how highly objectionable and how absolutely humiliating that would be. I therefore propose the following resolution:—

"That the Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland expresses its strongest protest against the suggested clause from the Council of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland being accepted as an amendment to the Veterinary Surgeons Act Amendment Bill, and which is as follows:

> "That a clause be added providing that prosecutions for alleged illegal practice under the Veterinary Surgeons Act be subject to the sanction of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in Great Britain, and of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland."

and we promise to make every effort to defeat this humiliating Clause."

Mr. MCKENNY: I second that. I do so in order especially that I may have the opportunity of opposing what Mr. Watson has said regarding the Bill. From time to time, the Council of the R.C.V.S. is frequently called upon to spend money in legal expenses, and we grumble with it because it does not take this, that, or the other action. At the present moment the R.C.V.S. I believe—and I have very good reason to believe—absolutely has not sufficient income to pay expenses, and

if money is not forthcoming from somewhere, its capital will have to go.

Mr. WATSON: I rise to a point of order. We are really not discussing the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Mr. MCKENNY: Mr. Watson has been permitted to make statements here which were prejudicial to the Veterinary Surgeons' Bill now being considered by our Parliament, and as in my opinion the statements are not accurate, I hope I will be allowed to at once refute them.

The PRESIDENT: I cannot allow the subject to be discussed at present.

Mr. MCKENNY: I yield to your decision, but must say that the members of the profession who do not uphold the Bill are either shortsighted, careless of the interests of the profession, or for some reason deliberately wish to weaken or absolutely destroy it. It is no matter what the present Council may intend to do with the money derived from the annual subscription fees: if the Bill passes the practitioners can vote into the Council those who will pledge themselves to allocate the money as the majority of the profession thinks fit.

[The motion was agreed to.]

Mr. WATSON: I propose that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, and also to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Highland Agricultural Society, and the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. MCKENNY seconded, and the motion was passed.

REPORT OF CONJOINT COMMITTEE.

Mr. MCKENNY who acted as the Secretary of the Conjoint Committee of Irish Veterinary Medical Associations then submitted the following report:—

Mr. President and gentlemen,—Having been honoured with the appointment of Secretary to the Committee (consisting of Prof. Mettam, Messrs. W. A. Byrne, M. J. Cleary, J. J. Ross, F. C. Mason, W. Cargill Patrick, A. Watson, and myself) deputed by the Veterinary Associations of Ireland to confer with the Local Government Board, The Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland, the Medical Council of Ireland, in reference to the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908, I herewith submit for your consideration a report on the subject matter.

To save time and a useless repetition, the following is a copy of the communications which were sent to each of the above named Medical Councils:

"Sir,—*Re* Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908. The above Associations have had under consideration matters relating to the appointment of inspectors under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908, and attention has been directed to the fact that members of the medical profession have in certain instances entered into competition with veterinarians in different parts of Ireland with the object of being elected to positions which have been declared vacant: in some cases at very low and decidedly unprofessional rates. I have been instructed to ask that the President and Council of . . . . . will arrange to receive a deputation of some of the Councils of the above named Associations, that the matter may be discussed with your Council. In case this request is acceded to, a week's notice at least is desired to admit of arrangements being made.

The enclosed memorandum will form the basis of the discussion:

(Précis). (1) The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908, is made under powers granted by the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1878. This Act has been enforced by veterinary officers for many years past with admitted success. The professional training of veterinarians enables them exclusively to execute its statutory obligations.

(2) The fact of taking the appointment of Inspector under this Order implies a knowledge of the duties. The Order requires expert knowledge of cattle diseases, and veterinarians are therefore a necessity for its proper execution. As medical men do not specialise in the disease of cattle, they cannot be competent to deal with them.

(3) The whole question of housing, feeding, and proper hygiene of cattle and cowsheds can best be handled by those who have received a special training in veterinary medicine. Veterinary surgeons alone are in this position, and medical men are unfitted by their training to undertake such duties.

(4) Medical men by taking these appointments tend to bring their own profession into contempt.

(5) The Local Government Board in their circular letter, and by their medical inspectors, advocate that these appointments should be held by veterinarians.

We hold that the above *précis* is a statement of facts, and hope that the Council of the — will take such necessary steps in the matter as it may deem advisable to prevent a continuance of the grievance complained of, due to medical men competing with veterinarians by accepting the appointments above referred to.

The following extracts show that such competition does take place:—

Extract from a letter issued by the Local Government Board to the Urban and District Councils.

"*Appointment of Officers.*

The inspection of cattle in dairies (Article 2), the certificate of the sanitary condition of existing cowsheds (Article 6), and the detection of tubercular disease of the udder or teats, and other disease dangerous to health (Article 16), call for expert knowledge of the diseases of animals, which is possessed in a special degree by veterinary surgeons. The Board desire to draw attention to this matter and at the same time to refer to the Local Authority to the provisions of the Order in regard to the appointment of officers."

The Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board also recommend that veterinarians be appointed to perform the duties of Inspectors under the Order.

The following are examples of the different actions taken in the matter by some medical officers, and some reasons given by doctors why the appointments should not be filled by them:—

Extract from *The Derry Standard* of October 12th, 1908. Londonderry No. 2 Rural District Council.

"The clerk stated he had written to the various medical officers in the district asking them would they act as inspectors under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, and furnish certificates of registration: a fee of 5s. to be paid for each inspection.

Dr. William Rankin, Newtowncunningham, wrote stating that he was quite willing to accept the conditions offered by the Council, as did also Dr. H. M. Sproulle, medical officer of Kilderry dispensary district.

Dr. Hamilton, Burt dispensary district, wrote in reply that he considered it *infra dig.* to the medical profession to act as such, but, as their salaries as medical officers was small and inadequate for the duties, they would be pleased to add to the salary where they could honourably and with some adequate reward do so. The hostility they would receive from the people in carrying out the duties efficiently, and the probable loss in private practice, would not be compensated by the fees proposed by the Council, so he declined to accept the post.

The clerk stated that when he received this letter he wrote to Dr. Sproulle asking him would he act as inspector for his own district and Dr. Hamilton's district, and Mr. Sproulle replied that he would be pleased to do

so, but in the case of Dr. Hamilton's district he would expect car hire over and above the fee of 5s. per dairy He expected about two days' work would take him round all the district for the first inspection, and about one day for the second."

The following letter from Dr. W. J. Jacob appeared in *The Leinster Leader* :—

"Maryborough, 15th October, 1908.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated the 6th inst., in reference to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1908, I do not consider it is any part of my duty as medical officer of this district to carry out the provisions required by this Order. I know nothing of animals or their diseases. It is very clearly stated in the Local Government Board's memo of 25th February, 1908, that a veterinary surgeon should be appointed, as the detection of tuberculosis, disease, etc., requires expert knowledge, which is possessed in a special degree by them (see 'appointment of officers, page 3). Article 26 clearly provides for payment for these special duties, showing that medical officers are not expected to perform the duties required by this Order under their present salaries.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. J. Jacob."

But notwithstanding that the Local Government Board, their Medical Inspectors, and Medical Officers of Health state that the duties of Inspectors under the Order can only be properly administered by veterinarians, yet some Medical Officers of Health have been appointed to hold office, as, for example, Dr. Rankin and Dr. Sproulle, who according to the foregoing report have accepted respectively the inspectorships of three districts under the Londonderry Rural District Council ; and, in addition, Dr. Rowlette has been appointed inspector to the Portadown Town Council at a salary of £25 per annum.

(Signed) Jas. McKenny, Sec. to the Committee."

On the 4th February, 1909, the deputation waited-on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. On February 12th on the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland. On February 19th on the Medical Council of Ireland. The deputations showed that there were a number of diseases communicable from cattle to man, and amongst other Orders granted under the powers of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1878, the Daries, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908 had been issued. It was admitted by all competent authorities that the statuory obligations of the Order re Inspectors could only be satisfactorily carried out by veterinarians, as the professional training of the latter eminently qualified them alone for the duties to be performed. The Order was passed with the view of obtaining a good supply of pure milk for public consumption : this could not be accomplished if the milk supply was derived from cows suffering from diseases which rendered the milk impure, especially if the malady were of an infectious nature, the germs of which were communicable to man. Thus, it was necessary that cows should be examined so as to ascertain that they were healthy, and for this purpose the Inspector under the Order should be qualified not only to differentiate between a healthy and a diseased cow, but should also be able to diagnose its diseases, and be conversant with all matters pertaining to their housing, feeding, and hygiene, so as to be in a position, when called on, to speak with authority on the subjects, and, when necessary, to advise as to the immediate steps to be taken to check a serious outbreak of any malady. The Local Government Board, when sending out the Order to the Rural and Urban District Councils, issued a circular letter setting forth that the detection of tubercular disease of the udder and teats, and other diseases of cattle dangerous to the health of human beings, called for expert knowledge of the diseases of animals, which knowledge was possessed in a special degree by veterinary surgeons. The Order, or advice, alluded to did not specifically state that a veterinarian must be appointed as inspector to perform the duties entailed in carrying out the Order, yet it was obviously intended that as veterinary surgeons were the only suitable persons to fulfil the position, their services should be procured when possible. Veterinarians had no desire to oppose medical men in their duties as medical officers of health, but on the other hand they strongly objected to these gentlemen interfering with them in their special prerogative. Indeed, they held that when medical men did so, it was not only unbecoming to the dignity of their profession, but was disgraceful conduct, inasmuch as they obtained money under false pretences and occupied a more ignominious position than the ordinary empiric, as they had not even the practical experience of the cattle-quack, much less the scientific training necessary for the veterinary duties.

Moreover, the deputations desired it to be clearly understood that in these matters veterinarians were not only quite willing to act under the Medical Officer of Health, but considered it was advisable that they should in these matters do so : that was to say, the veterinarians should send their reports of inspection to the Medical Officer of Health, and, if required, receive instructions from him as to furnishing reports of any special outbreak of disease in cattle, or particulars relative to the disease, its history, period of incubation, organs affected, duration, recovery, and in fact the deputations were fully alive to the fact that in the study of the inter-communication of disease from man to animal, and the reverse, the collaboration of members of both professions was absolutely necessary so as to arrive at the most speedy and satisfactory conclusion : but at the same time the etiquette of professions should be observed, each recognising the special knowledge of the other. Indeed, regarding the inspection of cattle, it was advisable for the deputations to at once definitely state that they were of the opinion that even if medical men studied the diseases of the lower animals—which they did not—they still would not be fitted to fulfil the double office of medical and veterinary practitioner. The very sanitation of the cowshed and bed-chamber was incongruous ; the fact that the byre was unavoidable contaminated with the animal's excretions, whereas in the bed-chamber such a state could be, and was, obviated, and for this reason alone it would not be compatible with the usages of civilized life for a doctor to proceed from the comparatively speaking dirty work of inspecting cattle to the scrupulously clean bed-chamber of a sick person.

The deputation were pleased to be able to state that some doctors had publicly given expressions to the same opinion, and they felt confident that a large number of medical men reciprocated their feelings in this matter. In the face of such facts, some Medical Officers of Health had been appointed as Inspectors under this Order, but the deputation would be glad to be able to state that others had refused to accept the appointments, stating that they considered it *infra dig.* to hold such offices, and frankly confessed that they did not know anything about the diseases of cattle. Furthermore, the deputation held that the *Précis* submitted was a statement of facts, and hoped that the —— would take the necessary steps in the matter which they might deem advisable to prevent a continuance of the grievance complained of, due to medical men competing with veterinarians by accepting the appointments above referred to. It might be contended that Medical Officers of Health should be capable of fulfilling the duties of Inspectors under the Order, that was to say by the terms of their appointment, viz.:

Medical Officers of Health.

The Local Government Board further directs that the duties of a Medical Officer of Health shall be defined as follows:—

(1) "He shall inform himself, as far as practicable, respecting all influences affecting, or threatening to affect injuriously, the public health within the district."

(2) "He shall inquire into, and ascertain by such means as are at his disposal, the causes, origin and distribution of diseases within the district, and ascertain to what extent the same have depended on conditions capable of removal or mitigation."

(3) "He shall, by inspection of the district both systematically at certain periods and at intervals, as occasion may require, keep himself informed of the conditions, injurious to health, existing therein."

(8) "He shall, if directed by the Sanitary Authority, or if he deems it advisable, inspect any animal, carcase, meat, poultry, game, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, or flour exposed for sale or intended for food, and if he finds the same diseased, unsound, or unfit for food, he shall give directions for the same to be seized, in order to be dealt with by a justice. He may also on making complaint, on oath, obtain an order from a justice to search for unsound food."

(9) "He shall perform all duties imposed upon him by bye-laws or regulations of the Sanitary Authority."

(10) "He shall inquire into any offensive process of trade carried on within the district, and report on the best means for preventing any nuisance or injury to health therefrom."

Minutes of Medical Council (Vol. XXXIX., 1902.)

(2) "Every candidate shall have produced evidence that, after obtaining a registrable qualification, he has during six months received practical instruction in a Laboratory or Laboratories, British or Foreign, approved by the Licensing Body granting the Diploma, in which chemistry, bacteriology and pathology of the diseases of animals transmissible to man are taught."

The deputations held that the object of the above qualifications was evidently merely to enable Medical Officers of Health to become acquainted with these matters, so that they may be able to understand the technical terms and fundamental principles of the subjects, as in so short a space of study a mere superficial knowledge of the subjects only could be obtained. Therefore, no doubt, it was only intended that the Medical Officer of Health should be consulted in matters pertaining to the subject which had been enumerated; but certainly it could not be reasonably expected that he should perform the duties of any profession or trade outside his own profession. The veterinary practitioners of Ireland would, therefore, feel much obliged by the Medical Councils taking steps to prevent this grievance complained of."

All of the above-named bodies received the deputations cordially, and agreed with their views on the subject, but regretted they could not institute proceedings which would directly remove the grievances set forth. However, they promised to use all the powers vested in them to check or prevent a continuance of the grievance, and advised us to submit the facts stated to the General Medical Council in London, as that body would be able to take definite and active steps in the matter.

Accordingly, on the 27th April, 1909, I wrote as follows:—

"Sir,—I have been instructed by the Central Committee of the several Veterinary Medical Associations of Ireland to bring the following facts under your notice: The Local Government Board of Ireland, in February, 1908, passed an Order cited as 'The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908.' The Board, in issuing the Order to the several bodies in Ireland upon whom the administration is imposed, sent a circular letter (No. 24 M, 1908, 'Miscellaneous') of explanation and suggestion. In the attached copy (please see A page 2) to which we desire to direct attention. Notwithstanding this emphatic reference to veterinary surgeons as being possessed, in a special degree, of expert knowledge of the diseases of animals and matters relating to housing, etc., a large number of authorities, for purposes of economy, made appointments to other than veterinary surgeons, such as rate collectors, sanitary sub-officers and, in several instances, the Medical Officer of Public Health or dispensary doctor.

"The members of the Veterinary Profession in Ireland found it necessary to form the Central Committee, above referred to, to protect their interests. In reference to the competition by medical officers against veterinary surgeons in this particular duty, a series of deputations were arranged for, and subsequent correspondence followed with—

"The Local Government Board.

"The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

"The Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

"The Irish representatives of the General Medical Council.

"The Dispensary Medical Officers' Association of Ireland.

All these Bodies received the Deputations favourably, expressed sympathy with the case stated, but regretted it was not within their power to take any remedial action, such being vested in the General Medical Council in London, to whom we have been advised to make this appeal: we therefore, through you submit the following points of importance:

The duties to be carried out, and relating to that part of the Order dealing with cattle, their housing, etc., require expert knowledge as to the diseases, the methods of diagnosis, etc., for which a special veterinary training is necessary. This is not given to medical gentlemen, and in consequence they cannot consistently undertake the duties.

There are diseases affecting animals which are communicable to man, and *vice versa*, it is therefore very necessary that those in medical attendance on man should avoid contact with animals of the byre as much as possible.

Having regard to the social position of medical men, it is in the general opinion, *infra dignitate* for them to take up duties of the byre when specially trained to attend those of the human patient. We are aware that some medical men have objected to take up the duties which the Local Authorities have offered them as dairy and cowshed inspectors for the above reason.

We also know that Medical Officers in several dispensary districts have, against their will, been pressed into the duties for a *very* small addition to the already unremunerative salary they hold.

The veterinary profession feel that it is hardly necessary to labour the question of fitness or otherwise of medical practitioners *versus* veterinarians for such posts, nor to point out in any detailed manner how such a position as cowshed and dairy inspector is likely to bring the medical profession into contempt. It is hoped that the General Medical Council will see their way to effectually interfere in this matter, and thereby both maintain the dignity and traditions of an honoured and honourable profession, preserve the friendly intercourse of the two professions, dispel any ground for resentment, and preserve the harmonious relations which have hitherto existed on subjects of this kind.

I beg, therefore, to ask that you will bring this letter before your Council for the next meeting: the result of the deliberations thereon we respectfully await. I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) JAS. MCKENNY,
Hon. Sec. to the Central Committee.

Up to the present, we have only received an acknowledgment of the receipt of this letter.

At a meeting of the Irish Central Veterinary Association held in Dublin on the 8th February, 1909, it was resolved that the following conjoint letter be sent to the Irish Medical Association, viz.:

"To Thomas Donnelly, Esq., M.D., D.H.P., etc.,
Honorary Secretary, Irish Medical Association.

Sir,—We are directed by the Veterinary Medical Associations of Ireland to place before you their views on the impropriety of medical men taking positions as Inspectors under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908. Should your Association agree with our views on the matter, we would, with great respect, ask you to take such steps as will prevent any further appointments being accepted by your professional brethren under the Order referred to, and, where practical, to urge those who have taken these positions to show their allegiance to professional *esprit de corps* by resigning them.

Firstly. We maintain that the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order 1908 is made under powers granted by the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act 1878. Now this Act has been enforced by veterinary surgeons for many years past with admitted success in the eradication of pleuro pneumonia, glanders and farcy, foot and mouth disease, rabies, etc. We, therefore, claim that we are still entitled to enforce its provisions. We also claim that our professional training entitles us exclusively to execute its statutory obligations.

Secondly. The fact of accepting appointment as an Inspector under this Order implies a fitness to enforce it. We say that the Order requires expert knowledge of cattle diseases for its enforcement, and that veterinarians are therefore a necessity for its execution. Medical men do not ordinarily specialise in cattle diseases, and therefore are not in a position to deal with them. By offering opinions on the diseases of cattle they become charlatans, and is not empiricism under all conditions to be deprecated by your Body?

Thirdly. The whole question of housing, feeding, and proper hygiene of cattle and cowsheds can best be handled by those who have received specialised education in the subject, and we claim that veterinarians alone are in this position, and that medical men, by taking these appointments, enter a province where they cannot be considered as experts, and thus their opinions on these subjects are liable to be challenged and may be negatived, and this would reflect unfavourably on them.

Fourthly. Medical men by taking these appointments enter into competition with veterinary surgeons, and we submit this competition is unfair and unjustifiable.

And further we postulate that the successful study of the origin of disease and prophylaxis can only be successfully prosecuted by the combination of medical and veterinary experts acting in collaboration and in harmony. Anything that will tend to upset this unity of purpose ought to be discountenanced, and we contend that medical men entering into our provinces of activity and emolument tends in this direction.

If we might be allowed the comparison, we would say that the medical profession is the strongest trades union possibly existing in the world, and no body resents intrusion into its work more than medical men, and correctly so; but surely they ought to mete out justice to those of another profession, and if they do so they must concede that the duties under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908, are for veterinary surgeons and not for medical men It is, we submit, contrary to nice feeling for medical officers to associate the sick room with the cow byre.

In conclusion, we trust that you will take our communication as it is meant, in a spirit of equity and broad fraternity, and free from all arrogance and contention on our part.—Believe us, yours truly,

(Signed) ANDREW WATSON,
Hon. Sec. the Irish Central Vety. Association,
Municipal Building, Cork Hill, Dublin.
(Signed) JAMES MCKENNY,
Hon. Sec. the Vet. Med. Association of Ireland,
116 Stephens Green, Ireland.
(Signed) J. A. JORDAN,
Hon. Sec. North of Ireland Vet. Med. Assoctn.,
The Abattoir, Belfast.

In the event of your accepting our version of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908, might we adumbrate a scheme of correction, by your influential body protesting against being asked to act under it, and by your entering a protest against doing so to the Local Government Board, and to your licensing bodies—the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, Ireland, and the University."

On the 4th April, 1909, Mr. Watson and myself were invited by that body to wait upon it to discuss the subject, and as a result they also agreed that Medical Officers of Health should not be asked to perform duties that could only be properly performed by veterinarians. At the same time, previous to the Association taking any active steps in the matter, they desired that the veterinary associations would again consider the subject and pass a resolution expressing the willingness of their members to act harmoniously in the carrying out of the Order referred to. Mr. Watson and myself assured the Irish Medical Association that from our knowledge of what was said by the members, the majority were of opinion that it would be advisable for veterinarians appointed under the Order to send their reports to the Medical Officers of Health so that the latter would be the first to receive the information, and if they considered it required immediate attention, might at once consult with the veterinarians, and thus the conjoint report of both professions could be more promptly acted upon than if the said reports were sent in separately.

As instructed, I consulted with Mr. Andrew Watson, and we agreed that I should send the following letter to the Local Government Board on February 16th, 1909:—

"Sir,—At a meeting of the Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland held recently, I submitted your communication No. 665, 1909, sent to me on the 5th ult. In compliance with the request contained in your communication, I am instructed by the Association to submit to you, for the consideration of the Local Government Board, the following facts, viz.:

A. With reference to the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order, 1908, and the appointment of veterinarians as inspectors.

(1) It is recognised that a large number of diseases are communicated from the lower animals to man, amongst them tuberculosis.

(2) With the view of assisting in preventing the spread of tuberculosis, and with a hope of lessening, or even in time eradicating, that dreadful disease, the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908 was passed.

(3) The Local Government Board issued a circular in which it is stated "the inspection of cattle in Dairies (Article 2), the certificate of the sanitary condition of existing cowsheds (Article 6), and the detection of tubercular diseases of the udder or teats, and other disease

dangerous to health (Article 16), call for expert knowledge of the diseases of animals, which is possessed in a special degree by veterinary surgeons. The Board desire to draw attention to this matter, and at the same time to refer to the Local Authority to the provisions of the Order in regard to the appointment of officers."

(4) Various medical inspectors of the Local Government Board strongly protest against persons other than veterinary surgeons being appointed as Inspectors under the Order. Yet, elsewhere, they have sanctioned such appointments, and the Board accordingly accepted such Inspectors.

(5) The Urban and Rural District Councils, in whose hands lie the appointment of Inspectors to administer the Order, have in many cases ignored the suggestions contained in Paragraph No. 3, inasmuch as they have appointed to fulfil the duties of these important offices —medical officers of health, sub-sanitary inspectors, ex-policemen, and labourers—persons unqualified to satisfactorily perform the duties, although the services of competent veterinarians could have been obtained at most reasonable fees.

(6) Medical Officers of Health have, in some cases, refused to act as Inspectors under the Order, stating that they knew nothing of the diseases of animals. Yet, others equally incompetent accept them.

(7) Some of the Urban and Rural District Councils seek for the services of veterinarians by advertising for tenders, the lowest tender to be accepted. Whereas, others advertise for Veterinary Inspectors at a fixed salary. The latter is calculated to secure the election of the most suitable inspectors; but in the former circumstance, the services of the most suitable veterinarians are not likely to be secured.

(8) Although the Local Government Board are not empowered to specifically direct the appointment of any of the Inspectors under the Order, yet they can withhold their sanction of the employment of those they consider unsuitable.

(9) The Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland are of the opinion that these positions should not be put up for tender, but that a salary ought to be allocated.

(10) The Order *to be effective* must be uniformly administered.

(11) The Order, as shown, up to the present has not been uniformly administered, inasmuch as in some places veterinarians have been appointed as Inspectors, whereas in others the duties have been entrusted to most incompetent persons.

(12) The Order *to be properly and satisfactorily enforced* throughout the country, requires uniformity of action on the part of the officers appointed to carry it out, and this, it is contended, can only be accomplished by placing the positions solely in the hands of the veterinary profession (as evidently was intended, see Circular referred to in paragraph No. 3).

(13) Veterinarians, owing to the nature of their everyday professional duties (visiting animals, etc.), are placed not only under exceptionally favourable conditions for accepting the positions of Inspectors and for carrying out the working of the Order, but for the same reason are also able to execute the work at extremely moderate salaries, thus combining the advantage of the maximum of efficiency with the minimum of cost.

If your Board can see its way to receive a deputation from us, we will indicate such remedies as will correct the anomalies set forth in this communication.

B. With reference to the Unsound Food Regulations and Foreign Food Regulations.

As to these, we would point out the impossibility of officers of Customs being competent to deal with them, or to enforce the provisions. It is known to you that foreign meat is imported frequently in the boneless condition—described as ox cheeks, ox tails, beef chunks, etc. Meat inspection always calls for expert knowledge—as to its fitness for the food of man or otherwise, but the difficulty is increased enormously when it is viewed in the detached or boneless condition. The Association could give details of such suggestions as would be likely to lead to better results, but they are largely the personal knowledge of the members of the deputation and would best be dealt with *viva voce*.

I have the honour to be, sir, Your most obedient servant,

JAS. MCKENNY,
Hon. Sec. to the Deputation."

The following reply was received:

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 16th inst., I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state that they fully recognise the importance of securing the association of members of the veterinary profession with the administration of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908.

The efforts of both the Board in correspondence and of the Inspectors in attending at Council meetings have been directed to impressing this fact on the local authorities, and the result up to the present has been by no means unsatisfactory, as in seventy sanitary districts veterinary surgeons have been appointed to assist in carrying out the Order. As you are aware, the Board did not think it desirable in their Order to prescribe the appointment of veterinary surgeons, more especially as various districts differ very largely in the extent and importance of the business of the production and distribution of milk for the public supply, and while they are in the habit of making representations to local authorities as to the desirability of the appointment of veterinary surgeons, where the circumstances of the case require, the matter must be in a large measure left to the discretion of the particular Council concerned. In many districts where "other persons" have been entrusted with the duties of dairy inspection, the dairying industry is not carried on extensively, and under the circumstances the Board did not feel they would be warranted in pressing for the appointment of a veterinary inspector, but they have in some cases succeeded in persuading the local authority to agree to the services of a veterinary surgeon being called in by the Dairy Inspector when occasion arises.

As regards advertisement for tenders, the Board concur in the view that this is not a desirable mode of procedure, but, on the other hand, it has, so far as the Board are aware, only been adopted in three instances, and in one of these the Council evidently did not feel themselves bound to accept the lowest tender.

As regards the Unsound Food and Foreign Meat Regulations, I am to point out that the existing arrangements in Ireland for the enforcement of these regulations are the same as in England, and the Board do not consider that the imports of food and meat into Ireland are of such an extent as would warrant them in taking the initiative to institute an altered system of inspecting officers.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. R. WARLAS, Secretary.

Since compiling the foregoing, I have received the following reply from the General Medical Council:—

"General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdon.
299 Oxford Street, London, W.
May 25th, 1909.

The Hon. Sec. of the Central Committee the Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland, 116 Stephens Green, Dublin:

Dear Sir,—I have to inform you that your letter of the 22nd April, calling attention to the provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908, was considered by the Executive Committee of the Council at its meeting yesterday.

In the opinion of the Committee, the Order in question imposes certain duties which can be performed only

by a medical officer of health, and others in the performance of which he may require the assistance of a veterinary surgeon. It therefore appears desirable that the chief executive officer or the local authority should be the medical officer of health, and that in general one, at least, of his assistant officers should be a veterinary surgeon. The terms of the Order are not inconsistent with this arrangement.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. E. ALLEN, Registrar."

Mr. President and gentlemen, this concludes my report, and no doubt it affords ample material for discussion as to what further steps we may take in the matter. JAS. MCKENNY.

Mr. HEDLEY: I beg to move that the report be accepted, and that it be printed and circulated as part of the proceedings; that the letter which has just now been read be forwarded to the Committee appointed to deal with these matters for their consideration and action thereon. They possess full power which has been vested in them by the several Veterinary Medical Associations in Ireland.

Mr. WATSON: At the last meeting of the Council of the Central Veterinary Association of Ireland we had under discussion the result of an interview between Mr. McKenny and myself and the Irish Medical Association *re* this Order and medical men taking appointments under it, and we submitted to the Council of the Association a resolution, the principle of which was suggested by the Irish Medical Association. This was to be signed conjointly by the three Associations. However, before signing this, I though it wiser to submit it to my President, Mr. Howard, for his authority, and Mr. Howard wrote me back saying he objected to the terms of it, and that I had better call a meeting of my Council. I duly called a meeting of my Council, and the Council have thrown out the part which was suggested by the Irish Medical Association, and have retained the portion that has been added on by the Council of this Association. To make things a bit clearer, the Irish Medical Association asked Mr. McKenny and myself to get what might be considered a guarantee from the members of the profession in Ireland that they would be willing to act under the medical officers of health, and send their reports *re* this Order through them. We unfortunately did not see the many objections to this course, and we accepted it, naturally assuming that we would first have an opportunity of submitting it to our Association and the Council of the Central Veterinary Association. They strenuously objected to giving any undertaking to act under the medical officers of health. I think it would not be out of place to have the opinion of this meeting as regards this crisis, and I submit the following resolution:

"The Veterinary Association of Ireland whilst anxious to act in co-operation with the medical officers of health are desirous that each should perform the duties of his own sphere independently, and with a view to the avoidance of any clashing, are anxious to have the duties of each defined by the Local Government Board of Ireland."

I will further read the definition of the veterinarians duty under the Dairies Order as passed by the councils of the two Associations.

"The veterinarian shall be responsible for the inspection of cows and their environment under the Order, and his opinion should be considered final in all matters pertaining to the following Articles of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Ireland) Order 1908: Articles 2 to 9 inclusive; Article 13, sub-articles 3 and 6; Articles 16, 18, 20 and 23."

Mr. HEDLEY: Both the resolution before the meeting and this matter can also be dealt with. I presume we agree that the letter from the Medical Council be referred back to the general committee I have already mentioned.

Mr. WATSON: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. CLEARY: Regarding Mr. Watson's letter, he submitted to me a copy of it, and when I came to consider how it would work in the country I objected to it *in toto*. A man occupying the position of veterinary inspector might be veterinary inspector to two or three Rural District Councils, and he might have to work in conjunction with and under six or more dispensary doctors. Take, for example, the case of a veterinary surgeon living in a town 25 miles away from a particular dispensary district. He has to go to that place to visit a cowshed or dairy. That cowshed or dairy may belong to the dispensary doctor's father or brothers; it will probably belong to a friend of his, and if he (the veterinary inspector) has to send his report, assuming it is an unfavourable report, through the Medical Officer of Health a very objectionable position will be created both for the doctor and veterinary surgeon. I have had many years experience as an inspector under Irish Local Authorities. In my capacity as an inspector I have come in contact with several dispensary doctors, and I am happy to state that that relationship has been of the friendliest kind.

Now, why was it of so friendly a kind? Solely because both officers were independent of each other. If we now subject ourselves to the mastership of the sister profession we will, by doing so, create a position unsatisfactory to both professions, and which will be the cause of endless disputes.

Apart altogether from this aspect of the question, may I ask what particular faculty have the medical profession to enable them to act as censors of the veterinary profession? I feel confident that veterinary surgeons taking appointments under the Daries, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order should do so on the understanding that they are performing the duties attached to such appointments under the direct control of their employers.

Mr. HEDLEY: I do not think it a proper course for this Association, or any other in Ireland, to pass independent resolutions on this subject, because a committee was formed to consider and to deal with the matter. I think the proper course would be to refer that resolution to the committee and let their Secretary write as from the General Committee.

Mr. WATSON: We have had it already before the Council.

Mr. HEDLEY: We approved of it, but we did not pass a resolution as from this Association.

Mr. MCKENNY This resolution was adopted by the Central Veterinary Medical Association, and the Northern say they are quite satisfied with whatever this Association will do; so that, if we approve of this, it will save much time.

Mr. WATSON: I think this other matter ought to be dealt with by the joint associations—that is the resolution asking the Local Government Board to define our duties under the Order. I would ask the authority of this Association for sending on this request to the Local Government Board to define the duties of the Veterinarian under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order.

Mr. CHAMBERS seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. HEDLEY proposed that Mr. Ryan's paper be next taken and that the discussion on it take place at the next meeting, and this was carried unanimously.

Mr. CLEARY: I have to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Holland for his very able chairmanship. I have always looked upon Mr. Holland as the "father" of the profession, and I think we ought to be proud of having such a man over our Society.

Mr. WATSON: It affords me every pleasure to second that.

The vote of thanks was passed with acclamation, and the President having replied the meeting terminated.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS 1894 TO 1903. SUMMARY OF RETURNS.

Period.	Anthrax.		Foot-and-Mouth Disease.		Glanders (including Farcy)		Rabies. Cases Confirmed.		Sheep Scab.	Swine Fever.	
	Out-breaks	Ani-mals.	Out-breaks	Ani-mals.	Out-breaks	Ani-mals.	Dogs.	Other	Out-breaks	Out-breaks.	Slaughtered *
GT. BRITAIN. Week ended June 26	19	21			13	40			1	42	389
Corresponding week in 1908	16	24			16	36			1	66	498
Corresponding week in 1907	17	18			15	48			4	70	292
Corresponding week in 1906	19	25			22	39			1	26	315
Total for 26 weeks, 1909	718	955			304	1153			456	911	8226
Corresponding period in 1908	618	815	3	112	410	1334			629	1192	6068
Corresponding period in 1907	608	809			470	1146			400	1343	6245
Corresponding period in 1906	519	770			569	1053			286	634	3440
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, June 29, 1909.							**Parasitic Mange. Outbreaks.**				
IRELAND. Week ended June 19	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		2	6	21
Corresponding Week in 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	3		1	3	52
Corresponding Week in 1907	..	..	..	..	..	..	2		1	..	44
Corresponding Week in 1906	1	5	..	..	..	..	2		1	2	2
Total for 25 weeks, 1909	3	3	..	..	.	..	47		280	43	697
Corresponding period in 1908	4	7	..	..	..	..	24		264	100	2008
Corresponding period in 1907	1	3	..	..	1	1	50		167	62	1147
Corresponding period in 1906	3	7	..	.	3	10	52		144	42	499

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, (Veterinary Branch), Dublin, June 23, 1909

NOTE.—The figures for the Current Year are approximate only. *** As Diseased or Exposed to Infection**

Milk Case at Newbury.

At the Borough Police Court on Friday, June 10th, Frank Talton Carter was charged with selling milk which was not of the quality and substance demanded by the purchaser on May 5th.

The Town Clerk (Mr. Louch) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. G. B. Godding for the defence.

Mr. Vincent said he purchased a sample of milk on May 5th, on Mansion House Street, at 7.30 a.m., asking for a pint and a half of new milk, and paying 3d. He divided the sample into three, the bottles were sealed in defendant's presence. One was handed to Mr. Carter, the second was sent to the Public Analyst for the Borough, the third he retained. The analyst's report was produced, showing that the sample contained: fat 2·65 per cent., non-fatty solids 9·56, water 87·79, a deficiency in fat of 11·66 per cent. below the minimum fixed by the Board of Agriculture. It was a low standard, and this, in comparison, was a poor sample.

In reply to Mr. Godding, witness said he took seven samples that morning, and each was separately numbered at the time of taking. He could not account for the absence of a number on defendant's bottle. He would not swear that he put a number on defendant's bottle.

Mr. Godding: Then there might have been a mistake?—There is not the slightest possibility of a mistake as each sample was numbered in the presence of the vendor.

Except this one?—That is not my sample.

Do you suggest this bottle ever had a number?—I do.

That is a serious accusation to make?—I don't make any accusation. It is your suggestion.

The Clerk: The number was in pencil?—Yes; it is not convenient to carry pen and ink.

Mr. Godding: About what time do you breakfast, Mr. Vincent?—Any time between six and eight, nearer eight than six.

I believe you like to have new milk?—I always get it.

The cows must be milked rather early?—I expect so.

About what time should you say?—Between three and four o'clock.

Mr. Godding: Will you take that down, Mr. Clerk?

Mr. Belcher: What does it matter?

Mr. Godding: I think it does matter, and insist on it being taken down.

Do you know anything about the quality of milk?—Not the slightest, except from taste.

Do you know that the morning's milk is never the same standard as the afternoon's?—I know nothing whatever about it.

Mr. Godding submitted that as defendant's bottle did not bear a number corresponding to the analysed sample, there was no chance of testing the analyst's certificate. On that ground he took a technical objection to the prosecution, but he did not rely on that point alone, and his client was prepared to swear that the quality of the milk had never been tampered with, in support of which he offered some technical observations on the constituent parts of milk.

Duncan Harold Heath, farmer, said he supplied Mr. Carter with milk, the contract having commenced three days prior to the sample being taken, he milked between 4.30 and 5 a.m., and the milk was delivered to Mr. Carter without being tampered with, and in an absolutely pure state. He did not use a separator, and

nothing was abstracted from the milk, which was delivered precisely as it came from the cows. The milk from which the sample was taken was brought by him into Newbury, and he assisted to put it into Carter's churn.

Mr. Louch intimated that they did not allege it was tampered with before delivery.

The Chairman said they were satisfied that the milk was delivered as taken from the cow.

Defendant sworn, said he purchased 14 gallons of milk a day from Mr. Heath, and sold it as he received it, pure milk from the cow, without any abstraction of fat. He had no separator, having no use for one. The bottle containing his third of the sample had no number, only the date when given to him by Mr. Vincent. He had not rubbed, or caused the number to be rubbed out.

In reply to Mr. Louch, witness said he sold his milk at 3d. and 4d. a quart.

Mr. J. H. Wilson, F.R.C.V.S., gave expert evidence as to the effect of a long period between the milkings, the fat becoming absorbed into the cow and the afternoon milk would be heavier than the morning's. It was generally the custom to test the two milkings to get an average. The quality of this milk was accounted for by the abnormal conditions. It was very good milk.

Mr. Louch: Is it not generally known to cowkeepers as to the effect of a long time between the milkings?

Mr. Wilson: Not generally, only to higher agriculturists.

Mr. Midwinter: But all are higher agriculturists nowadays. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lewendon asked if other samples were not taken on the same day, and were found satisfactory?

Mr. Vincent said the others were reported on as very good quality.

The Bench retired, and on returning the Chairman said defendant would be fined 10s. and pay 12s. costs.

Mr. Godding asked the Bench to state a case on his objection as to the numbering of the bottle, and this was agreed to.

Mr. Louch said there were two other charges under the Food and Drugs Act, but after the decision in the first case he did not propose to proceed further, and would ask permission to withdraw them on payment of costs.

Mr. Godding: I don't think we ought to pay costs on charges we have never heard.

Mr. Louch: Well, I will be magnanimous, and waive the question of costs.—*Newbury Weekly News.*

Bee Disease.—Board of Agriculture: Notice.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries desire to warn all bee-keepers that an outbreak of disease, believed to be identical with the Isle of Wight bee disease, has occurred in several hives in Buckinghamshire. This disease, which has destroyed almost all the bees in the island, from which it takes its name, is due to a bacillus closely resembling the bacillus of plague, and no remedy for it is known. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that bee-keepers should take every precaution to prevent the disease spreading, and they are strongly advised to keep a careful watch for any signs of its appearance. A full description of the disease was published in the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture* for February, 1909, and bee-keepers who find symptoms of disease, corresponding to the description there given, should communicate with the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A POST GRADUATE COURSE FOR PROVINCIAL PRACTITIONERS.

Sir,

The admirable paper recently read by Prof. H. A. Woodruff before the Central Veterinary Medical Society, on "The Qualification and Training of the State Veterinary Medical Officer," clearly shows that special training is needed before members of the R.C.V.S. can be fully qualified to fill and claim as a right these posts.

Recent years have seen the inauguration of post graduate courses, and no doubt these courses have been taken advantage of by many members who were in a position to attend them, *i.e.*, men who were not in practice, recently qualified graduates, members resident in or near London, and officers of the Army Veterinary Service, who receive special leave for the purpose. The majority of us—provincial practitioners—have felt the utter impossibility of leaving our practices and jeopadizing our homes by attending a two months' course. Personally, I should dearly like to attend a post graduate course, and would work as I never worked as a student—with understanding, and a genuine thirst for knowledge—that knowledge of which I daily feel the want, and have felt for the past 13 years. But the thing is impossible, and so, like many other desirable things in this life, one has to do without it.

Now, however, that the State veterinary medical officer, the chimera of the past, seems likely to become an actual living being in the future, it behoves us all to make an especial effort to qualify ourselves in those special branches of our science which are relative to his duties, and I would seriously ask if it is not possible for those who will be responsible for that training, to arrange a course framed so that provincial veterinary surgeons could attend it while still conducting their practices.

What I would suggest is that separate short courses of a week or a fortnight duration should be given, each course dealing with one subject, so that one year a man might attend for a fortnight's instruction on meat inspection, later on, for a fortnight on milk and dairy inspection, or a fortnight on skin diseases. It might also be possible to arrange week end lectures, given one day a week, ranging over a period of some months.

What I wish to emphasize is that a fortnight at a time is the longest period that we can possibly leave our practices to the care of a locum, and as at present arranged, post graduate courses are unattainable for those who would appreciate them most.

If the Royal Veterinary College will offer us such courses as I suggest, I feel sure that many would take advantage of them, and they would confer an inestimable benefit on the majority of the veterinary profession, helping us not a little at a somewhat critical stage of our existence.—Yours faithfully,

Parkstone, Dorset. J. Stewart Wood.

The Principles and Practice of Veterinary Medicine, by William Williams. 9th edition. Revised by W. Owen Williams, F.R.C.V.S., and F. H. S. Baldrey, F.R.C.V.S. Lge. post 8vo.: Pp. xviii + 986. 18 coloured plates, 7 in black, 88 other illustrations. No advertisements. Cloth lettd. 25/- net. Ballière, Tindall & Cox.

Communications and Papers Received.—Messrs. J. Alex Todd, H. L. Roberts, J. Stewart Wood, E. R. Gibson, W. Waters, J. Chalmers, A. Gofton, W. H. Wilkinson, "Mephistopholes," G.M., F.E.P.

The Sunday Times (Perth, W. Australia), *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal.*

Original articles and reports should be written on one side of the paper only and authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers, not necessarilyfor publication.